



Laptops stolen in raid included beer-making recipes

THIEVES TARGET MICRO-BREWERY

By Alex Ross

A MICRO-brewery was broken in to by thieves who took cash and laptops containing vital beer recipes.

The offenders struck at the Green Duck Beer Company in Stourbridge in an early morning raid on Friday, on the eve of the Gainsborough Trading Estate brewery's Oktoberfest beer festival.

They smashed through the double glazed glass door of the brewery's office.

Once inside, they took around £100 worth of takings and two laptops, one with the recipes stored on.

The business brews five beers on the site, which also includes a real ale and keg bar.

Director Nathan Kiszka said: "We think this was opportunistic thieves – anyone who is offered laptops for cheap, please let us or the police know."

The brewery makes its own five cask ales, namely Duck & Dive, Duck & Cover, Duck Blonde, Duck Under and Duck Dastardly. They also run a monthly guest beer, which is this month Duck Dazzling Chocolate Stout.

Mr Kiszka said: "It's annoying that beer recipes which link up to our machines here were also on one of the laptops. There was no way to back them up, so they are gone with the laptops."

Complex

"We have the recipes in terms of what goes in the beers, but the computer provides the timings to control the brewing process."

"It is a complex mechanism and we are working hard on it. The beers will still be the same."

Mr Kiszka said he discovered the break-in on arriving at the business at 6am.

There was no CCTV – a situation the bosses have already changed to protect the site.

He said: "The offenders had kicked through the double glazed window of the door."

"It would have taken five minutes to smash through so they must have been determined."

"We've never been targeted before, it's frustrating on the eve of the beer festival."

Mr Kiszka said one of the laptops the offenders made off with had also contained a barmaid's university dissertation.

Around 500 people attended the festival.

The brewery company was launched three years ago. It took four months for the team to convert the former engineering unit.

It is split down the middle with a glass wall – with fermenting tanks to make the firm's speciality beers on one side, and a lounge to cater for up to 120 people the other.

SPOOKY THRILLS AND SPILLS AT GLASS CONE



Visitor services manager Sarah Hall gets ready for the Halloween activities at Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

GHOSTS, monsters and spooky thrills are on offer to visitors brave enough to visit Red House Glass Cone this half term.

The popular attraction located in Wordsley will be transformed into a scary setting for the events ranging from a zombie family day to a glass fusion session.

Sarah Hall, visitor services manager at the museum, got in the spirit as she posed up for a picture in studio 14.

Today (Thursday), there's a glass fusion session, where children can make a fused glass ghost or zombie. Sessions run at 10.30

and 11.30am and 1 and 2pm, cost £4.25 per child and must be booked in advance. There will be a free drop-in spooky duck trail around the site until Sunday, suitable for those aged three and over.

Treat

As part of the trail young explorers will be able to watch glass makers conjure creations from liquid glass.

For the first time ever, the attraction is hosting a pre-bookable trick and treat session for ages four-plus from 11am – 4pm on both

Saturday and Sunday. They cost £2.35 per child. Some of the cone's studio artists will be running workshops too.

Sarah Cannings of Saz's Ceramics will be running pottery painting and craft workshops today and tomorrow (Friday), including a little hoot 'trick or treat' box, a Frankenstein Can-it, a deco patch drop in, clay day skull mugs and a Halloween owl. Prices range from £7.50 to £15. Call 07966 514766 for details and to book a place.

The on-site studios and coffee house will be open for business. Call 07871 515489.

ELECTION

MEP rules himself out as UKIP leader

DUDLEY councillor and West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge has ruled himself out of the UKIP leadership race. He has given his backing Nigel Farage's former deputy Paul Nuttall.

Mr Etheridge said Mr Nuttall was the 'unity candidate' who would bring the party 'back together'.

"Over the weekend we have seen both Suzanne Evans and Paul Nuttall announce they are standing in the election."

"Paul and I share the same values and we have the same supporters."

"I think Paul is a good man and is the unity figure that the party needs."

Mr Etheridge was previously considering standing in the second election which was called after Diane James resigned after just 18 days. He will now work on Mr Nuttall's campaign.

OPERATION

Park searched in knives crackdown

POLICE hunted for knives in a Black Country park following a series of stabbings over the last fortnight.

Officers were out in Priory Park in Dudley checking hedges, undergrowth and other potential hideaways for signs of weapons. Officers were at the site on the back of three stabbings in the space of eight days in Dudley borough.

Sergeant Adam Austin, who was leading the search in Priory Park, said: "We have been making sweeps of public spaces looking for weapons which may have been stored anywhere."

The crackdown on knife crime also saw officers visit the Merry Hill shopping centre on Wednesday, where a 16-year-old boy was able to buy seven knives.

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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Emma Parkes
Tel: 01384 353234
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Tel: 01384 353244
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MP calls for amnesty after stabbings

A DULEY has pledged to raise in Parliament the issue of knife crime in the Black Country. It comes after a teenager was knifed in the fifth stabbing in just two weeks across the region.

Police are investigating after an 18-year-old was stabbed in Pleck, Walsall at around 8pm on Saturday.

He is believed to have been approached by a group of men in Wednesbury Road and then followed into Ford Street where the assault is thought to have taken place.

MP for Dudley South, Mike Wood, has been so shocked at the recent stabbings spat that he is tabling a question on the issue for the Home Office, and calling for a knife amnesty. The Conservative

MP said: "I am currently tabling a question to the Home Office, to highlight the rise in stabbings to police ministers.

"The sentencing on stabbings is clear, but what we need to do is to remind people that if you carry a knife then you are looking at prison.

"I'm calling for a knife amnesty to try and reduce the number of these weapons which are on the streets as much as we can.

"I am also writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner encouraging the amnesty."

Mr Wood said he would also try to put the question of an amnesty before Theresa May at Prime Minister's Questions.

He confirmed his constituents had expressed

fears to him over the rise in knife attacks and fatalities in the area.

"These are particularly concerning for local people," said Mr Wood. "Whilst it does appear in most of the cases the victims and the attackers are known to each other, it is not always the case, and people are understandably growing increasingly worried about their safety."

West Midlands Police are appealing for information about the latest stabbing in Pleck on Saturday. Det Sgt Adam Keen, said: "We are in the early stages of our investigation and I am urging anyone who witnessed this to come forward."

Anyone with any information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101.

Mother: We must get tough on knife crime

THE mother of murder victim Tom Kirwan has called for tougher sentences for knife crime after new figures showed a dramatic rise in the number of incidents involving blades across the West Midlands.

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that 37 out of 44 police forces in England and Wales recorded a rise in offences involving knives and sharp instruments in the year to June.

While knife crime rose by nine per cent nationally, with nearly one in five of the extra offences taking place in the West Midlands.

Emer Kirwan, whose son Tom was stabbed to death outside the former Uberra Club in Wolverhampton in July 2012, said it was 'heartbreaking' to see the high levels of knife crime in the region. Her son's killer has never been found.

Distressing

"A lot of people think they can carry a weapon around and not get prosecuted," she said. "There should be stiffer sentences for anyone who is found carrying a knife.

"How any normal person can go around carrying a knife and use it on another person is beyond me. Something has got to be done because the problem is clearly getting worse."

In the last month alone there have been three stabbings in the space of eight days in Dudley borough. Mansoor Mahmood, 24, died after he was stabbed in the stomach in Brierley Hill, a 22-year-old man was stabbed in Lower Gornal and an 18-year-old critically injured in a stabbing in Sedgley.

There was also a stabbing on a bus in West Bromwich, which led to a 16-year-old boy requiring hospital treatment, while in September 23-year-old Mircea Gheorghe Cozmuc was knifed to death in Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. All



Murder victim Tom Kirwan



Mircea Gheorghe Cozmuc



Schoolgirl Christina Edkins



Herman 'Louis' Simpson

of the incidents took place after the ONS figures were compiled, sparking fears that knife crime across the region could be getting worse.

The force has waged a long-running battle to rid the streets of violent crime, with the region having seen a number of high profile stabbings. They include Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was fatally stabbed in the chest by Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, while travelling to

school on the No.9 bus along Hagley Road, in Edgbaston, on March 7, 2013.

Her great uncle Chris Melia, said: "It is distressing to see that more and more people are going through the same distressing experience as ours. It seems there is still not enough resources being put into stopping knife crime."

Earlier this year Darren Parker, who was 43, was killed after being

Consultation over taking greens from council hands

BOWLING greens and croquet lawns in Stourbridge could be taken out of Dudley council hands and maintained by clubs instead, saving the cash-strapped authority around £48,000 a year.

Bosses are to launch a public consultation on whether the greens and lawns that are part of The Ernest Stevens Trust should be leased to members.

Council chief say around £48,000 per year would be saved if leases were transferred. It could mean clubs taking over the day-to-day running and general maintenance of the land.

Members of The Sons of Rest at Mary Stevens Park have objected, saying they go against the park's deed of gift.

Bowls secretary Roger Wynne said: "A legal lease is already in place with the deed of gift and its conditions. We cannot maintain the greens ourselves as we are all senior citizens and most there would be the need for chemicals and safety equipment and its just something we could not take on."

The survey also asks whether a restriction on ball games in the park on Sundays and Good Fridays should be lifted. Councillor Hilary Bills, for environmental services, said: "We have been trying to work with the clubs for two years now and we feel that this could be the best way for it to work."

The two-week consultation will start next Monday and run until November 13. It will be discussed further as part Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee tonight (Thursday) at Dudley Council House.

Carve out chance for zoo discount

DUDLEY Zoo is offering discounted group admission for up to four people if they bring a carved pumpkin for its Halloween pumpkin patch.

An animal adoption of the winner's choice is up for grabs for the best design.

Running until Sunday, visitors will be able to follow a trail around the 40-acre site and receive a treat at the end.

There'll be eerie arts and crafts in the spooky farm barn and the chance to design a pumpkin poster in the Queen Mary Restaurant. Visitors can also come face-to-face with creepy critters in the Ghoulish Go Wild! Show running daily at 11.30am and 2.15pm.

The zoo will also be raising money for its snow leopard enclosure extension appeal by running a daily raffle for the chance to feed pumpkin to the animals.

Community forum meetings staged

DUDLEY Council hosts community forums for Coseley East and Sedgley in the Age Concern base in Ettymore Road, Sedgley, and for Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton in Upper Gornal Pensioners' Club, Kent Street on Monday from 6.30pm.

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Takeaways among the highest in Black Country

Brierley Hill has among the highest amount of takeaways in one ward for the whole of the Black Country, new figures have revealed.

The Public Health England figures show Brierley Hill has 37 takeaways, making it one of the highest for wards across the whole West Midlands.

In total Dudley has 81.7 takeaways per 100,000 people, ranking it the 12th highest out of 30 towns and cities in the West Midlands. There are 258 takeaways in the borough.

Current figures state around 70 per cent of the city is overweight with some 50 per cent not physically active.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and well-being, said the council was doing what it could to control the mix of restaurants in key areas but that it was limited to work within a national framework.

She said: "Dudley Council wants our borough residents to benefit from eating well and leading an active lifestyle which is why we have produced planning for health guidance to reduce the number of hot food takeaways opening in close proximity to schools and oversubscribed town centres. The council endeavours to control the retail mix in key areas but can only work within the national planning framework.

"Our Dudley Food for Health awards also trains and then publicly recognises hot food providers offering healthy alternatives and educates businesses on how to promote and provide foods that are lower in salt, sugar and fat."

Exhibition under way at Glass Cone

A GLASS exhibition has opened in Stourbridge.

The Guild of Glass Engravers is returning to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley with a new selection of pieces.

This exhibition features work by members of the Stourbridge and Midlands branch and the South West branch of the Guild.

The pieces range from elaborate, large scale items to small Christmas decorations and most of the pieces are for sale.

The exhibition started on October 23 and runs until Friday, January 13.

The venue is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 4pm at the weekends. Admission is free.

Match offer for fireworks night

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Club is offering free admission for a game with tickets for its bonfire. The Chester game on November 5 follows the bonfire from 6pm the day before at Stourton Park. Tickets are £5 or £2.50.

Carer shortlisted for Teen Hero award



Nominees with DJs and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor

A BLACK Country teenager who spends more than five hours a day caring for three of his family members was nominated for a top award – and met the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge ahead of the ceremony.

Alex Griffiths was shortlisted for the BBC Radio 1 Teen Hero Awards, which celebrate the achievements of young people across the country. The ceremony took place on Sunday. The 16-year-old

from Brierley Hill has been a carer since he was just five – helping his mum, Sharon, who has MS, his grandmother Angela, who is a double amputee and his grandfather Albert, who has suffered from a series of strokes.

In between attending school and doing his volunteering work, he cooks meals, cleans the family home, changes his granddad's dressings and helps his nan in and out of her wheelchair. Alex is a part of

Spurgeons' young carers committee, which helps improve the lives of young carers, as well as the services available to them. He speaks at key local events, and at school assemblies, and is a keen supporter of the MS Society, taking part in fundraising activities for the charity.

A commendation from Radio 1 said: "About to start his A-Levels, he hopes to enter medicine and take his role as a carer to a different level."

Traders force change to town market plans

TRADERS have forced organisers to amend plans for a weekly market in Stourbridge.

LSD Promotions wanted to launch a food and craft market on Thursdays, which would have involved closing the town centre's two main streets, High Street and Market Street, to traffic.

But the plans were withdrawn after the town's chamber of trade was unhappy about the planned road closures.

The company went back to the drawing board and has now revealed plans to move a market it already holds twice a month to the pedestrianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year. LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town. But the chamber of trade voiced its concerns.

There were mixed views to the market proposals from traders but some were concerned about High Street being out of action to vehicles and the impact that would have on businesses.

Discuss

Dermot McGillicuddy, from LSD Promotions, said: "The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn't want High Street closed. If we are up by the clock we won't have to close the road."

"We believe to have a Thursday market we would have had to close the road."

"We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe we can look again at the Thursday market and discuss it again with businesses. We will see if it is something we can explore again, maybe next year."

LSD currently holds a market on the first and third Saturday of the month at the top of Market Street, near Chicago's restaurant. It now wants to move it to a more prominent location as well as make it a weekly event.

Councillors will decide next Tuesday whether to grant consent for the Saturday market on Lower High Street and Coventry Street. It will feature food, crafts and various other goods.

The possibility of holding the market on Saturdays instead was floated by some traders and Stourbridge MP Margot James earlier this year but LSD Promotions initially said it was determined to stick to its Thursday plan.

Bonfire night to go off with a bang



Councillor Kurshid Ahmed with Kat and Olivia Brew looking forward to the fireworks

BONFIRE night is expected to go off with a big bang again this year at Himley Hall and Park as the venue hosts Dudley Council's 40th bonfire and fireworks event on November 5.

More than 1,500 wooden pallets will be used to build the bonfire. Fireworks will be released to the sound of a big hitting soundtrack, featuring some of the greatest artists of the last 40 years, including Michael Jackson, Davie Bowie, Queen, Coldplay and Adele.

Gates will open at 4.30pm with Heart FM entertaining the crowds

from 6.30. The display is expected to attract around 20,000 visitors. The giant bonfire will be lit at 7.45pm with the fireworks spectacular set to music starting at 8.30pm. A giant funfair and seasonal refreshments will also be on offer.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We're really excited about celebrating 40 years of Dudley Council's bonfire and fireworks event and it's great that people who remember going as children

themselves are now taking their children and grandchildren to enjoy the fun."

Tickets are £9 for adults, £4.50 for juniors and senior citizens, while under 5s are free. A family ticket for two adults and two children is £23 and car parking is £3.

A free bus service is available from Dudley, Coseley, Sedgley, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

More details at www.dudley.gov.uk/himleybonfire or call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or Himley Hall on 01384 817817.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Book on comedian boosts hospice

A BOOK about the life of Black Country comedy legend Tommy Mundon – who died of Parkinson's disease in 2014 – has sold more than 3,000 copies, raising vital funds for charity.

Proceeds from sales of The Tommy Mundon Story: Spread a Little Happiness, by Angela Daniels, are being donated to Mary Stevens Hospice, in Stourbridge.

It is £9.99 from Ashwood Nurseries, Dancers of Halesowen, Morgan and Co Wollaston, Mary Stevens Hospice shops and at www.blackcountryrsociety.co.uk/publications or Amazon.

Keeping young safe on travels

YOUNG people have been encouraged to stay safe when using public transport in Dudley borough.

The Travel Smart West Midlands campaign has been set up by a group of Youth Police and Crime Commissioners to inform young people of how to keep safe and what to do if they run into any issues when travelling.

Tips are given to pupils in schools. Young people are invited to discuss their experiences and share tips on safely using public transport via Twitter @travelsmartwm and Facebook /travelsmartWM/

Spandau star in night at town hall

SPANDAU Ballet star Martin Kemp is heading to the Black Country for an up close and personal evening of conversation.

Kemp, who played Steve Owen in EastEnders and starred in The Krays with brother and bandmate Gary, appears at Stourbridge Town Hall tomorrow night (Friday), from 7.30pm.

He will discuss his life in the public eye and answer questions posed by the audience. For tickets or for more information, call 01384 812812.

MP pays visit to new supermarket in town

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has visited the town's newly opened Aldi store.

The MP was part of the campaign for planning permission for the new store, which is on the site of the former King Arthur pub and opened last Thursday.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "I used to enjoy going to the King Arthur but it had stood derelict for years, residents wanted it sorted out and I am delighted that this store is now open."

Halloween activities

A BUILDING society branch is holding a Halloween party for the children of members tomorrow night (Friday).

The event runs at the Dudley Building Society's branch in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal, on from 1 to 4pm. It will include meeting a witch and Halloween-themed arts and crafts.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I HAD an invitation from a friend to a lecture on the future of literature which would make the point that old-fashioned ink and paper is dead and the way forward is with the internet. The invitation was on a post-card, in an envelope, with a stamp.

OH, no! Shock, horror! The annual inflation rate is at a two-year high! It has hit (wait for it, cue roll on the drums) one per cent! Some of us of a certain age were unmoved by this week's panic-stricken bleatings of youthful journalists and City experts. That's because we remember 1975 when inflation hit 25 per cent. We all survived.

THIS week the first of the 'children' arrived from the Calais Jungle. They do not look like children. They look more like soldiers. It was a PR disaster. Given the suspicion that the system is being abused by adults posing as children, this was the perfect photo-opportunity for the authorities to bring a group of the sweetest, tiniest and most vulnerable little Jungle children to the UK. Instead of that heart-melting image, we were presented with a column of tall, confident youths. I can think of three explanations. Firstly, there are very few real children with British connections in the Jungle. Secondly, no-one in authority knows how the media works. Or thirdly, no-one connected with the migration programme gives a damn what the British public thinks.

ONE glaring question hangs over Jeremy Corbyn's ongoing furore about Baroness Chakrabarti. It is this: did none of the



“ing”s running Corbyn’s “ing useless PR operation ever watch The Thick of It (BBC)? If they had, they would have realised by now that the storyline of Chakrabarti embarrassing the party by sending her child to private school is a re-run of minister Nicola Murray’s (Rebecca Front) anguish in Armando Iannucci’s darkly brilliant political satire. The big difference is that in real life Corbyn is lacking the hyperactively foul-mouthed spin-doctor Malcolm Tucker (Peter Capaldi) to knock his minions into line. In The Thick of It, Tucker verbally batters the minister into submission, giving her a stark choice between sending her kid to the local comprehensive or packing her bags and heading for the back benches. In the finest traditions of Westminster, Nicola Murray puts career before kids. Rule one of politics: never embarrass the party.

AFTER my recent piece on the 770-calorie sandwich, a reader sends me the menu he took from a chippie in Glasgow. The bill of fare begins: “Chips. Chips and cheese. Chips and curry/gravy. Chips, cheese and curry. Deep-fried Mars Bar.” In some parts of Glasgow life expectancy is 57. I’m amazed they last that long.

Don’t miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Club to make way for bigger car park

HALESOWEN Members Club is to be demolished so that Lidl on Hagley Road can extend its car park.

The plans to demolish the club were approved at Dudley Council’s development control committee last week after a vote. The demolition is going ahead despite concerns over the loss of the venue, which dates back to the 1950s, as well as worries over congestion on Hagley Road.

The approved application follows a previous attempt by the supermarket to increase the car park capacity by 75 spaces, refused in February. The proposals were amended with a new application instead for 57 parking spaces to be created.

The applicants changed the design of the access to address concerns over increased traffic and added a pedestrian refuge.

There was praise for the applicants from committee member Councillor David Stanley, who said: “I am very pleased with Lidl. They haven’t gone to appeal, they have gone back to work on the plans.”

But Councillor Simon Phipps regretted the loss of a well-established meeting place and venue, and warned that modifications would not solve traffic problems.



The Halesowen Members Club

Hickory’s Smokehouse to rise from the ashes

Report by David Cosgrove

WORK has started to rebuild fire-wrecked restaurant in Wall Heath – as bosses confirmed a re-opening date for the venue.

Hickory’s Smokehouse in Kidderminster Road was devastated by a blaze in August sparked by a fault in a refrigeration unit.

Signs on railings fencing off the site now warn passers-by to keep out as ‘demolition is in progress’.

But bosses have explained that ‘minor demolition works’ for the worst affected areas of the American style eatery are now under way.

Rebuilding work is due to start later this year with the hope of reopening in July 2017.

Hickory’s Smokehouse manager Kris Perrin said: “We are so excited to be re-building the restaurant here in Wall Heath.

“We have had such an incredible amount of support from guests, residents and business colleagues in the area they have really given us the encouragement to raise from the ashes as it were and create a brand new Hickory’s for the whole community.”

The restaurant will be rebuilt, with work due to be completed by the middle of next year with a re-launch date in July.

A total of 15 fire crews were called to deal with the blaze with around 100 firefighters on the scene at its height.

Firefighters remained on the scene for more than 15 hours, while the A449 was closed in both directions as a result of the blaze.

Evacuated

Guests in 22 rooms at the Kingfisher restaurant and hotel complex next door were evacuated, while the fire service advised people in the local area to keep their windows closed.

The restaurant only opened in November last year, replacing iconic nightclub the Kingfisher Club.

A Hickory’s spokesman said: “The Hickory’s Smokehouse team have now confirmed that minor demolition works for the worst affected areas of the Wall Heath site are now under way, in order to allow building work to start in late autumn.

“They are delighted to confirm that due to the overwhelming level of support they have received from the local area they will be rebuilding the restaurant and work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2017 with a proposed re-launch date of July.”

Kingswinford Councillor Dave Tyler said: “It’s good news to hear that Hickory’s is planning to reopen.”



Devastation inside Hickory’s Smokehouse after the blaze that wrecked the restaurant in Wall Heath

Glitz and glamour in charity night

A NIGHT of glitz and glamour will be held in Dudley to help raise funds to support a cancer charity this weekend.

The Venue, based in Dudley high street, opposite Top Church, is hosting a Great Gatsby Ball on Saturday.

Money from the night, organised by marketing and events manager Xenna Sowka and her colleague Kash Deo, will bring in cash for Cancer Research UK. Together, they aim to raise £5,000 after both having personal experiences of cancer with close family members.

Along with their resident DJ, Kevin Bingham,

there will also be entertainment from trio band the Miss Fortunes. There will also be large auction with prizes including sporting memorabilia.

The tickets will include a hot pork buffet. Guests are invited to dress in vintage clothing and sharp suits.

Tickets can be bought from The Venue Box Office which is at 171-173 High Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1QD.

They are also available by calling 01384 453101. Tickets are £20 for adults, and £10 for children under 10.

This sum includes entry and the buffet.

Ceremony to honour youngsters' triumphs

A DUDLEY charity is holding a special awards night to recognise the children they help and their triumphs over adversity.

Tappy Twins, a community interest company with charitable status and based in Brierley Hill, was set up by Suzanne Skeete to support vulnerable youngsters. She has also developed Teenline to help adolescents.

It works with children online, in schools and organisations, to help them overcome any negative experiences, trauma and everyday worries.

Suzanne and her team achieve this through a combination of therapies, counselling, coaching and strategies in one-to-one or group sessions.

“I believe that every child deserves to be a child and not exposed to anything that harms them emotionally or physically. It is their right to feel safe, loved and happy,” said Suzanne.

“There are countless young people out there who don’t have this right and are very unhappy and need someone to talk to and help them.

“This is why Tappy Twins, Tappy Town and Teenline were born. They act as a platform for any young person to visit and get the support they need when they need it.”

The charity has developed the Courageous Kids Awards, to give the youngsters a special night and to highlight their achievements.

The black tie event is at Edgbaston Cricket Ground on November 12 and includes a three-course meal and entertainment. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com

Co-op to put store on pub car park

A CO-OP store will be built on a pub car park after the plans were approved by councillors.

The shop would be built next to the Hare and Hounds, on Wynall Lane, Wollescote, after an application by owners New River Retail.

The Hare and Hounds will continue to trade as usual despite the store being built next door.

Wollescote councillor Richard Body said he was disappointed at the decision. He said: “The pub relies on people being able to park. If they can’t park they won’t go.”

He added: “The extra traffic will make both junctions leading onto the main road even more dangerous.”

A supermarket will also be built on the car park of the Ashwood Inn, in Wordsley.

Sunday ball game park bans could be lifted

A BAN on ball games on Sundays at four parks in the Dudley borough could be lifted by the council. They are launching consultation on historic bans at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, Stevens Parks in Wollescote, Quarry Bank and Homer Hill Park.

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted ‘Which Trusted Trader’ status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear’s long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. ‘Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it’s not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don’t focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. ‘The truth is that it’s not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good

business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I’ve done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.’

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Scotty T on way to town nightclub

THE winner of Celebrity Big Brother 2016 Scotty T is visiting a Stourbridge nightspot tomorrow (Friday).

The reality television star, real name Scott Timlin, will be at Chicago's at the Ryemarket, for a Halloween night special, called Quarantine Outbreak, on Friday. Tickets are on sale for £6 for the event, which runs from 8pm until 3am.

The hunky 28-year-old from Newcastle-upon-Tyne originally found fame in the controversial reality TV series Geordie Shore and also featured in Ex On The Beach.

Football heroes in charity match

WOLVES legends will take on Dudley Town Football Club in a match to raise money for charity next month.

A team organised by ex-Wolves star Mel Eves will take to the field at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill on Sunday, November 27, from 2.30pm.

Dudley Town will be raising money for various charities, including Dudley Fibro which supports people suffering from the painful condition fibromyalgia.

Tickets cost £5 adults and £3 concessions, available on the day or can be booked by calling 01384 226063.

Boss Design wins an export award

DUDLEY-BASED office furniture manufacturer Boss Design Group has won the inaugural export award from The Furniture Makers Company.

The award was presented to Boss at a special export and growth event organised by the British Furniture Confederation at the House of Commons this month.

A second presentation of the award was also to take place at the Furniture Makers' Royal charter dinner in London this week.

1066 and all that is focus of history day

A STUDY day on the Norman conquest and 1066 is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on Saturday.

It will include a look at Dudley and the surrounding area in the Domesday Book, the Norman invaders' first census of their newly-conquered lands.

Medieval historian and archaeologist Dr John Hunt will take part in the event at the Tipton Road centre from 10am. It costs £25 per person and places can be booked 01384 812368.

Sci-fi author visits

AUTHOR Clare Morrall will be in Dudley to talk about her latest novel When The Floods Came, a post-apocalypse story set in a tower block. The novelist will be at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, Tipton Road, on November 30 at 6.30pm. Tickets are £3 from 01384 812770.

Man jailed for pool cue attack outside pub

A FATHER has been jailed for six years after attacking a man with a pool cue at a pub on New Year's Eve.

CCTV played at Wolverhampton Crown Court showed how 32-year-old Craig Davies, of Hildene Road, King'swinford, snapped a pool cue which he then used to repeatedly strike a man.

The attack at the Lawnswood pub on Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, on December 31, left the victim with wounds to his head.

Prosecutor Mr Paul Farrow said that there were around 100 people in the pub celebrating New Year when, at about 10.40pm, the victim walked outside to have a cigarette.

"He can remember being outside for 10 minutes, but then he can't remember anything until he was being treated by paramedics," said Mr Farrow. In a statement, the victim said that as a result he initially had difficulty hearing and had been scared to go outside.

Although Davies initially gave a "no comment" interview, he later pleaded guilty to both wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon. The CCTV showed the defendant breaking the snooker cue and heading outside.

For Davies, Miss Nicole Steers said he had no history of violent behaviour. She said: "Something happened between the complainant and his (Davies') sister. He lost his temper and responded in the way he did."

He was also given 12 months to run concurrently with the other sentence for possession of an offensive weapon.

Free boat trips for caverns light show

FREE boat trips into the canal tunnels and mines under Dudley's Castle Hill are being offered on Saturday, November 5.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust will be running the 30-minute trips as part of its first Festival of Light, supported by the Celebrate programme of the Big Lottery Fund.

The famous limestone caverns will be illuminated and there will be music and light shows for visitors by narrowboat to watch.

The boats will depart every half hour from the trust's base off Birmingham New Road from 10.30am. Booking is not required and tickets will not be sold in advance with boats filling on a first-come, first-served basis.

Halloween fancy dress pub party

A BLACK Country pub is offering a prize for the best fancy dress outfit at its Halloween party night. The event is being held in The Chapel House in Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, on tomorrow evening (Friday).

Victim shocked as pervert flees country

ONE of the victims of a perverted Black Country religious leader is worried that he will assault more children after fleeing the country.

Paedophile Hafiz Rahman, 58, was found guilty of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this month.

But after the jury found him guilty in his absence, as he claimed he was too ill to attend court, perverted Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh to avoid being sentenced.

Rahman was the imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath. He was convicted of crimes against the girls in the 1980s, when he was supposed to be giving them religious instruction.

One of his victims, who was under 10 at the time

she was preyed upon, says she is 'angry and frustrated' by Rahman's escape from justice.

Speaking at her semi-detached home in the West Midlands, the mother-of-one - who uses the pen name Nabila Sharma - said her relief at Rahman's conviction was followed by shock at his escape.

Warned

"When I heard he was guilty it was as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. The fact that those 12 jurors believed me and it only took 20 minutes for them to decide shows I was right," she said. But Ms Sharma was shocked that Rahman had been able to travel to Bangladesh, adding that she had warned police he would run away.

Councillors reject sports ground parking proposal

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to create a new car park at a sports ground in Stourbridge has been thrown out due to fears over traffic and safety.

The proposal for the King Edward VI playing fields in Oldswinford had looked set to go ahead after being backed by planning officers, but was turned down by councillors who were not satisfied with the plans.

The scheme, put forward by trustees of the King Edward VI College, would have seen 15 parking spaces created to serve its playing fields. But it led to a backlash from nearby residents who feared vehicles pulling in and out of the car park on Oakleigh Road could create a hazard on what they believe is already a dangerous junction with Love Lane.

A total of 534 people signed a petition against the proposals while 70 letters of objection were also lodged with the council. They claimed there have been a number of near misses on the road and that drivers often break the 30mph speed limit. Concerns were also raised about the potential for an increase in on-street parking.

Officers at Dudley Council suggested that creation of the car park would not impact on road safety and recommended approval.

Unanimously

But councillors disagreed and unanimously voted to reject the proposals.

Councillor Paul Bradley, from the committee, said allowing the plan to go ahead would have been 'unfair' on residents.

He added: "We had a site visit, which always tells us more than looking at the plans on a screen. We could see the geography of it."

"If the car park was on that side of the playing fields all the cars would end up on Oakleigh Road and Love Lane. It was only 15 spaces so it would end up quite quickly. Lots of cars would end up parking on the road. It would have been detrimental. It was ill thought out."

Councillor Heather Rogers said she hoped residents and trustees could reach an agreement over the fields and believes it would be more suitable to create an entrance on Swinford Road and more parking spaces by moving the football pitches.

She added: "The access from Oakleigh Road would have been extremely dangerous. The issue can be resolved if the trustees and residents get together and have a chat about it."

Shock at trail of dumped rubbish



A discarded doll's head adds a macabre touch to this shocking scene of rubbish dumped on Turner's Hill

THIS is not an official rubbish dump or landfill site but open land in the heart of the Black Country where an incredible amount of rubbish has been dumped by fly-tippers.

The trail of rubbish extends for dozens of metres at Turner's Hill in Rowley Regis.

The piles of rubbish at the site, off Portway Hill, is just a short distance from the huge phone mast.

The scale of the mess has outraged people in the area.

A stunned Councillor Maria Crompton said: "It's absolutely disgusting. If it was brought in a lorry or van it must have been several lots

Clean-up

"Somebody must have seen something. If anyone did, I hope they will come forward."

The clean-up process has been made complicated as it is not clear who owns the site, although the land is thought to be owned by telecoms giant BT.

Councillor Crompton said it was the worst example of fly-tipping she had ever seen and it is unclear how long it will take to be cleared.

Councillor Crompton added: "Environmental Health and the security people have been informed."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Smile? No Lily you make me grimace!

MIGHT I take this opportunity to apologise on behalf of my country, for Lily Allen. I would like to say sorry for what she has put millions of people through, for the pompous, self-indulgent navel-gazing in Calais, and thinking that a few hit records gives her the right to speak for the rest of us. But most of all for that ghastly, irritating, Smile song.

THE question mark about the age of some of the supposed child refugees at Calais reminds me of a rather embarrassing incident at a non-league football ground when I was in my late 20s. Keen not to miss the start of the game, I split up with my friends and headed for the turnstile with the shortest queue, where I was greeted by a decidedly off-hand match official. "Four pounds, sir," he said with a curled lip, struggling to contain his contempt. On meeting up with my group inside the ground, I observed what good value the tickets were. At which point it was pointed out that I had just gone through the gate for children and pensioners.

THE past quarter of a century has not been a vintage period for American presidents. Barack Obama's eight years in the White House have been largely forgettable, Bill Clinton's remembered only for a sex scandal, and George W Bush's tenure is, well, probably best forgotten altogether.

But the latest two contenders take it to a whole new level. In a country with a population of 320 million, could they really not have come up with better than this pair? A boorish billionaire against the bolshie wife of an unloved former president. It's the American equivalent of putting up Mike Ashley against Cherie Blair. In any normal circumstances, putting forward either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump as your candidate would guarantee victory to the other side. But here they both are, with very little to say about actual policy, trading insults in some ghastly race to the bottom.

If I were an American, I wouldn't vote for either of them. A polite abstention would surely be the best response. Something we would do well to remember next time somebody suggests making voting compulsory in this country.

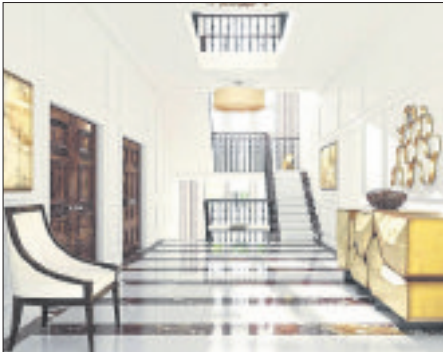
GLASS half full, or half empty? On the one hand, Dudley has the fifth worst town centre of its size in the country for empty shops, with more than 20 per cent. There is also no major department store, and while the much-vaunted light rail centre has finally been given the go-ahead, it will no longer link up with the national rail network, meaning it will continue to be the largest town in the country with no train link. Still, on the positive side, it has been shortlisted for a prestigious international competition for urban lighting...



The indoor swimming pool with a spa bath



A light and airy relaxation area also has room to eat



Elegance is feature of hallway with wooden staircases

£4m – city's most expensive home

The cost of this mansion will beat the previous record by half a million pounds, as JAMIE BRASSINGTON reports

PLANS to build a £4 million mansion have been given the green light by planners – which will make it the most expensive residential property to ever go on the city's property market.

The seven-bedroom estate in Edgbaston will feature a swimming pool, steam room, hot tub, sauna, gym and a squash court. Birmingham City Council has given developers Woodbourne Group the go-ahead to start work on the 46 Westfield Road property. It will be in 0.75 acres of land in the leafy suburb. The mansion has been given an estimated value of almost £4.1million. This beats the previous record in the city by half a million pounds, which was a property located in 4 Woodbourne Road.

Cinema

The new house will boast 10 bathrooms, seven of which will be en suite. It will also feature a drawing room, reception room, family room, dining room, a kitchen diner, dedicated laundry room, utility rooms, cloak store, an entrance hall and a tandem garage.

Buyers will also be able to enjoy a cinema, table tennis and snooker room and a luxury garden building.

The mansion is due to be completed by early 2018. The start of its development marks the first stage in a £31.7million-pound pipeline for Woodbourne Group since the relaunch of its development arm earlier this year.

Woodbourne Group's new expansion plan is being spearheaded by 24-year-old entrepreneur, Tani Dulay, who said: "We're very excited to get this project in motion.

"As a family business that is committed to the region, delivering exceptional service,



Seven-bedroom estate with luxury garden building in a leafy suburb will boast a gym and squash court among the many facilities

backed by quality and design is crucial. Number 46 Westfield Road, whilst a significant project in its own right, is just a small step in the right direction for the company.

"Experience across the board culminated with our start-up mentality positions us well to deliver in a post-Brexit landscape.

"The UK still has the foundations for a boom in house building and we remain committed to meeting these needs."

Detailed illustrations for the property show how the inside would look.

Both the interior and exterior of the building have been recreated using computer-generated imagery, or CGI. One picture shows

a white hallway with gleaming marble floors with wooden doors and golden decor.

Another shows an image of the swimming pool area and a spacious relaxation area with white-coloured furniture. The front and rear of the mansion has also been illustrated, which shows a sprawling back garden.

Affluent

The suburb of Edgbaston has been traditionally seen as one of the most upmarket and affluent areas of Birmingham.

A family called the Gough-Calthorpe's controlled the area in the 1800s where they refused factories or warehouses to be built there,

which made it popular with the middle classes. This year, a multi-million-pound mansion in Edgbaston was sold for £2,200,000.

The property, called Aldorham, located at 37 Richmond Hill Road, was bought for the six figure sum in February. It was sold by estate agents Fine and Country.

The 19th century home boasts eight bedrooms and lavish gardens. A mansion, which was thought to have been the home of former Aston Villa manager Paul Lambert, was the most expensive to be sold in Birmingham last year.

The property in Sutton Coldfield was sold for £2,600,000.

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We don't all learn at the same speed

IT appears that the powers that be are still trying to lump us together.

I was fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam and interview for grammar school against everyone's expectations.

I was not in any way a brilliant student and struggled my way to five GCEs, as the qualifications were then known.

However, some 17 years after leaving school I went to evening classes covering a subject which I had failed at GCE.

I was the oldest in the class and

passed my exam with 86 per cent which gained me a credit. The point I am making is that we do not all learn at the same speed.

Many folk are brilliant from a young age, whatever their background.

Some of us struggle through and learn more slowly.

I feel that by trying to level the playing field in respect to education is quite possibly holding back the more early learners whilst destroying the confidence of the slower ones.

I was a product of a grammar school as was my late brother. He was a quick

learner whilst I developed later in life. However, in spite of being physically disabled, certain of my teachers recognised something in me which they pushed me into doing.

I remember refereeing a game in our gym display and was given minor roles in our school plays.

I doubt that this would have happened if my education had been anything other than it was.

I am, because of this, all in favour of grammar schools.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Chance for action on tourist tax

THE European Union, together with Switzerland have recently introduced a tourist tax which is applicable to visitors to those countries.

The tax is typically four euros per person per night and at current exchange rates is a charge of £3.77 per night.

A family of four will now have to fund a tax charge of £105.56 for a week's holiday in Spain and other sunspots.

I can find no evidence that we plan a tourist tax on EU visitors to the United Kingdom.

We are still members of the EU and there are no reasons why we should not apply this tax, it would raise much needed money and could reduce the national debt.

Our prime minister, who so far has been very good on talk, now has the opportunity to take action on this tax, which would win approval from all in the UK.

G A PETERS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Tempest ballet was fantastic production

I SAW the Tempest at Birmingham Hippodrome. Leon Burakowski's review insults the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

He writes 'Caliban's costume 'made him look like he'd escaped from a Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer sketch'. From my A-Level studies, I'd say the costume and body features of Caliban in the ballet is how Shakespeare would have imagined.

Mr Burakowski complains of 'the sinking feeling of the horn pipe playing sailors' and 'the orchestra to bash and clatter annoyingly', the headline says 'Tempest caught In the doldrums'. It was a tempest at sea!

Prospero, he writes, 'seemed to do more glaring than dancing in this oddly gloomy production.' Glaring being part of his 'commanding presence', just that, commanding.

How can a storm-wrecked ship not have 'bash and clatter' music.

I've never seen anything like this ballet! An audience member said 'fantastic!' There were numerous encores. The ballet honoured Shakespeare in his 400th anniversary year.

JACKIE ADAMS
Rowley Regis

Can Tory promises be trusted?

DURING the Conservative party conference in Birmingham, the Prime Minister made several clear promises: To listen to the people, to give more power to local government, to stand up for communities against conglomerates and multi-national companies and to remove inequality in the workplace. She has already broken several of these.

Just prior to the party conference she had promised that the NHS would recruit thousands of foreign nurses and doctors to bolster those in the NHS. Now she wants to restrict foreign medical staff and to recruit more British practitioners, which we clearly don't have.

The Tories promised that the NHS would be safe in their hands, but it is falling apart before our eyes.

We should remember this at the next election. Can we trust any of the Tory promises?

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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Life of local boy made good relived

Amblecote History Society

GEOFF Longmore opened the September meeting and introduced Barbara Middlemass who stepped in at short notice to present 'The Life of John Corbett'.

Barbara is the author of John Corbett - Pillar of Salt 1817-1901. She intends to do a revised version, adding new or revised information about Corbett's life. Next year marks the 200th year since his birth.

Born to Joseph and Hannah (nee Cole) in 1817 in Brierley Hill, Corbett was a local man made good.

While in Paris in 1855, Corbett met an Irishman, John O'Meara, who was married to a French woman and had two daughters. Anna Eliza was the youngest daughter and he married her within a year of meeting her and they had six children together. Corbett spent a fortune building an impressive house for Anna who missed Parisian life and this remains today as the Chateau Impney.

Corbett became increasingly involved in politics as a Liberal candidate and was elected in 1874 as MP for Droitwich.

Corbett was a rich, respected philanthropist who generously gave money to local causes - Amblecote and surrounding villages benefited in 1892 from him buying The Hill estate which had stood empty and dilapidated for some years, along with its 30 acres of grounds for £6,500. And after adding a further £5,000 to restore and convert the buildings it became the Corbett Hospital.

Denis handed reins as new president



Outgoing president Gary Wood hands over to new incumbent Denis Hickman
GARY Wood handed over the chain of office to the new president Denis Hickman at the club's recent AGM.

Mr Wood thanked the committee and members for their support and said how much he had enjoyed his term of office.

Mr Hickman said he was looking forward to supporting the aims of the club in the new club year.

The club is open to all men in the Dud-

Dudley Probosc Club

ley area. It meets the Lodge in Wellington Road, Dudley on the last Tuesday in the month for a meal and talks by various speakers.

See more on www.dudley-probos.webs.com

Bike v bus in cross country race

Kingswinford TG

THE guild met on October 10 at the community centre. Chairman, Enid Fennell welcomed two new members.

The guest was Alan Peace, a popular speaker and a man of many talents. His subject was 'Bike versus Bus', a race from John O'Groats to Lands End. Which was the fastest? That would be tell-

ing. The trip did raise a considerable amount for Cancer Research. Chris Groves gave thanks.

The various sections announced their future plans. Scrabble will be at Kendall Rise for the foreseeable future. The rambles will

meet at Wolverley Lock. The next venue for the Luncheon Club will be The Glassworks.

Tickets were on sale for the community centre raffle. Raffle prizes at this meeting were won by Wendy Eley and Pauline Bird. Joyce Robins was thanked for her delightful flower arrangement.

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Generous help for cancer victim after mugging

A GOOD Samaritan has handed over hundreds of pounds in donations to a terminal cancer patient who was mugged of his pension in broad daylight.

Seventy-eight-year-old Roy Weston was robbed in Brierley Hill after picking up his and his wife Maureen's weekly pension from the post office at around 9.20am on September 12.

Last year grandfather Mr Weston was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer, and the disease has spread to his bones. And, when a man and woman pounced on him outside Pepe's hairdressers in the High Street, he was unable to fight back.

Tripled

After the mugging was reported, readers offered to make donations and a crowdfunding page was set up by fellow cancer sufferer David Webb.

He had hoped to raise £200, but has more than tripled this by collecting £600.50.

Mr Webb who was born and raised in Tipton, but did not know the couple beforehand, said: "I've just survived lung cancer myself, with surgery on two thirds of my right lung.

"I was shocked when I read about what happened to Roy, and he is of course terminal, poor guy.

"It was suggested on Facebook that a JustGiving page should be set up for him, and I knew what I was doing having raised £1,500 for cancer research when I was diagnosed.

"We've managed to raise £600.50 for him, and I'm very moved to see everyone's generosity in putting their hands in their pockets."

Mr Webb's kindness was also demonstrated through him driving from his current home in Tunbridge



Dave Webb, left, hands over the £600 to Roy Weston, of Brierley Hill Wells to present the money to Mr Weston in person.

He still managed to get there - with the RAC's help - despite his car breaking down due to an exhaust fault about a mile from his home. "Nothing was going to stop me," added Mr Webb.

The 58-year-old says he is disheartened to hear about the spate of crime in the area, where his daughter still lives. "It's shocking to hear about all this going on in Brierley Hill, and now with the stabbing there too," he said.

Touched by the generous response by so many to his ordeal, Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "Words can't explain how kind they have been, and now with Dave coming here."

The pensioner added that while he was now going out into town again, the fear attack hadn't gone away.

"I am still getting about, but I'm anxious of people behind me. I've still got a bit of nerves," he said. "But all the people have been so kind."

His daughter Diane added: "The whole family are overwhelmed by this exceptional kindness."

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Protest over axed bus route to Merry Hill



Bryan Cotterill with residents Cissie Cox, Paul Kirton, Joyce Evans, Ruby Tristram, Lilly Owen and Mary Homer

RESIDENTS are angry that a bus service is to be scrapped over claims that not enough people are using it.

The 282 Diamond bus service runs from Merry Hill shopping centre to Gornal Wood via Dudley Wood.

Bosses from Transport for West Midlands argue the service can no longer be run due to commercial reasons.

They say they have been subsidising it for years and now the number of people using it has dropped below the minimum required. But the move has sparked an outcry from those who use the bus.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill, who represents the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward, says the loss of the service will leave residents feeling isolated.

Angry residents seeking to save the route gathered outside the children's centre in Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank to protest at its removal.

Councillor Cotterill said: "It's elderly people that are primarily affected. There is one lady who is gone 90 and her husband is in care."

"She relies on this bus to see him every day."

"To be told that instead you've got to get a taxi, that's very expensive

when you are just on a pension. It is leaving people isolated."

A Transport for West Midlands spokesman said: "Using public money to provide bus services that private companies cannot run for commercial reasons is important in making sure that people can properly access employment, education and leisure opportunities. However, in order to protect the public purse we have strict criteria that need to be met in order to justify using taxpayers' money."

"For those passengers who have limited mobility the Ring and Ride service may be a suitable alternative."

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Big Brother's Craig opens £1.5m college skills centre

THE first winner of TV's Big Brother has opened Stourbridge College's £1.5million construction centre.

Builder Craig Phillips, who won the first UK series of the TV show in 2000, visited Stourbridge College's new centre, which contains carpentry, electrical and plumbing workshops.

College bosses hope to support industry skills shortages by training students for jobs needed in the construction industry and allied trades.

Year 10 students from Pedmore Technology College and Redhill Foundation School received a construction mini master class from Phillips before competing against one another in three practical challenges.

The Liverpool-born former bricklayer has crafted a new career presenting DIY TV shows.

He said: "I'm hugely impressed with the college's facilities and how the students have made full use of the resources now available to them.

"I've experienced every side of the construction industry from worker to trainer to business owner, so I'm well aware of how important it is for young people to be supported in their careers.

"This centre will make a difference in the region and inspire generations to come."

The construction centre enables the college to welcome 350 additional students to their Hagley Road campus.

Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College, said: "'We've recognised the growth in apprenticeships and continue to work with many employers looking to recruit staff and develop their existing workforces."



Craig Phillips with college students Owen Taylor, Gus Hurst and Nathan Debney at the new skills centre

Man is charged after violent death

A MAN from Sheffield has been charged over the death of a 33-year-old Yorkshireman who was found with serious injuries on a Halesowen street.

Karl Swift, from South Yorkshire, died of his injuries after being found on New Road. He is believed to have been in the William Shenstone pub in the town earlier.

Dean Hartley, aged 29, of Burnaby Crescent, Sheffield, has been charged with manslaughter and appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court last week. He is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court today (Thursday).

Dean Hartley senior, aged 51, of Chaucer Road, Sheffield, and Lee Ardron, 29, of Broad Inge Crescent, Sheffield, have been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and have been bailed to appear before Walsall Magistrates Court on November 18.

An investigation was launched after Mr Swift was found and then died in hospital the following day. Senior investigating officer Detective Inspector Paul Joyce said: "We are still keen to hear from anyone who was in the area on Thursday, September 8 into the early hours of Friday."

MPs join fight over pharmacy funding cut

BLACK Country Labour MPs are backing a campaign opposing a Government plan to cut the budget for chemists – potentially putting 653 West Midlands pharmacies at risk.

Talks about a new package of funding for community pharmacies have fallen apart.

The Government is set to push through a funding cut that could force thousands of chemists to close across the country, according to Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin.

He said the Government's initial plan to cut £170 million from the community pharmacy budget – a six per cent reduction – has been put on hold after pressure from campaigners.

But a new round of damaging cuts could now be imposed.

Estimates showed that the £170m cut could have meant up to 3,000 community pharmacies – that's one in four nationwide – closing down.

Across Birmingham and the Black Country 653 community pharmacies serving 2.5 million people could be put at risk as a result of the funding cuts.

Bad

Mr Austin said: "The Government should drop their damaging plan to cut community pharmacies and get back around the negotiating table.

"Cutting community pharmacies would be bad for our local community as many people, including young families and elderly people rely on them for free medical advice and prescription medicine.

"The Government's plan is also a false economy for the NHS, because community pharmacies save the NHS money.

"Cutting them will only add more costs in the long run," he added.

"The Government should

By David Cosgrove

think again urgently before it is too late."

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds has lent her support to the campaign.

In Parliament she asked Health Minister David Mowat directly: "How many pharmacies will close as a result of these cuts?" The minister responded that it was very difficult to predict.

He said: "We do not believe that any community pharmacies will necessarily close as a result of these cuts.

"That will depend on a number of factors. It depends on the margin they make from their pharmacy activities and on the additional margin they make from their retail activities.

"Given that 65 per cent of all pharmacies are owned by public companies or private equity, it depends on the position those organisations take to their businesses.

"That is very hard to predict."

Ms Reynolds said afterwards: "I am very concerned that the Minister was unable to give a straight answer to a straight question."

The minister has said the Government had decided that the current system was not the best use of NHS resources.

"Far from jeopardising services, our modernisation package will help improve them," added Mr Mowat.

Celebrating 25 years

A BUILDING society is celebrating 25 years at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Coventry Building Society is marking its anniversary this month having been set up at the Brierley Hill malls since 1991.

Steven Jenkins, manager at the Coventry's Merry Hill branch, said: "We're very excited about celebrating 25 years at Merry Hill. Over the years, we've provided much-needed banking services and developed really strong relationships with our members and the local community."

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Murder suspect's cell death ruled as suicide

AN inquest jury has concluded the death of suspected double murderer Leo Barnes was suicide.

Barnes, aged 33, from Birmingham, was found hanging in his cell at HMP Hewell in Redditch in January 2015. At the time, he was on trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Barnes was accused of battering 80-year-old grandmother Cynthia Beamond to death with a saucepan at her Halesowen home, and then killing 67-year-old Philip Silverstone with a car jack at his flat in Belsize Park, London. He had denied both murders.

Following the five-day inquest at Worcestershire Coroner's Court in Stourport, the jury returned a conclusion that his death was suicide.

Appear

Barnes was found hanging in his cell at about 6.05am on Sunday, January 25. On the Friday before, he had been due to be cross-examined by prosecutors, but didn't appear in court after complaining of feeling ill.

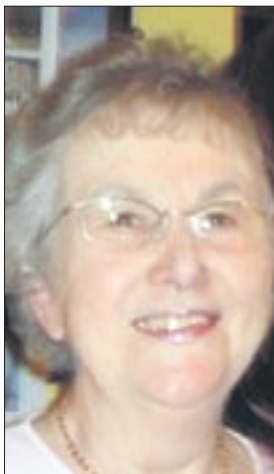
During the inquest before Coroner Geraint Williams, a member of Barnes' defence counsel, Joseph Kotrie-Monson, said he had told him he wanted to take his own life.

However senior custody officer at the crown court, Marie Dance of prison transportation and custody company GeoAmey, said Barnes was asked 'on every day' about his mental state. She said: "I spoke to Mr Barnes and he stated to myself that he had no thoughts or issues at present."

Forensic psychiatrist Dr Dinesh Maganty said: "With others who are depressed it is much more straight forward. We can see there is certain behaviour, they can't hide the symptoms, they can't hide the difficulties. That would not be the case with Mr Barnes. He could hide his symptoms."



Suspect Leo Barnes, aged 33



Murder victim Cynthia Beamond

Van driver collides with tree

A MAN was taken to hospital when a van overturned after colliding with a tree. The van was left on its side following the crash on Brettell Lane in Amblecote on Sunday at around 1.30pm.

The driver was helped out of the vehicle by people at the scene before emergency services arrived. He suffered cuts and bruises and was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Firefighters made sure the vehicle was safe and tipped it back into its

wheels. Glass and other debris was left scattered over the road following the crash.

Watch Commander Paul Martin, from Brierley Hill Fire Station, said: "The van hit a tree. The driver was helped out of the vehicle by locals before we got there."

It was the latest serious crash to happen on Brettell Lane. Motorcyclist Elliott Beddow, aged 20, was killed after coming off his Harley Davidson last month.



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Bostin! Bogarts 'as bin 'ere in Dudley 40 years, ay thay?

Commercial feature

THERE will be big celebrations at Bogarts Hair & Beauty next week. On November 5, the Black Country salon will have been trading for 40 years.

Bogarts, located in a Grade II listed building in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, first opened its doors in 1976. Over the last couple of centuries it has housed many different dwellings and businesses.

Current owner Louisa Heraty has been there for the last 13 years and has invested in the restoration of the building along with help from the Dudley Heritage Initiative and Dudley Council.

Bogarts has been a gent's barbers for the last 40 years but also has a ladies hair and beauty salon on the first and second floors.

Proud

Louisa the owner, who was diagnosed with cancer earlier in the year and is now in recovery, says: "This celebration is a really great positive ending to the year for me.

"I am really proud to have been part of the driving force behind the longevity of a business such as this one.

"Hopefully we can follow in the footsteps of the likes of Teddy Gray's, an iconic part of the Dudley trading heritage.

"Bogarts is a well-known name to many people in Dudley and a lot of them have been coming here for



The salon staff celebrating the 40th anniversary of Bogarts in Dudley

haircuts since they were children. Our long-standing and loyal customers have helped us to achieve this milestone and for that we are very grateful.

"To celebrate, we will be holding various events in the week running up to November 5.

"We will be hiding 40 golden tickets throughout Dudley town centre. The finder of each ticket, who brings it back to us, will win a prize. These will range from mugs and gift vouchers to a pair

of fabulous GHD hair straighteners – just in time for Christmas.

"On the day we will be letting off 40 green balloons outside the salon and into the sky, one for each year of trading."

Louisa and her team, consisting of Laura, Beverley, Vicky, Jutta and Norma in the barbershop and Lou, Kirsty and Jessica in the ladies salon look forward to welcoming customers for years to come and hope they will all join in the 40-year celebration.

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Bogarts Celebrates 40th Anniversary on the 5th November

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To celebrate there will 40 balloons let off and 40 golden tickets will be hidden around Dudley Town Centre Find one, hand it in and you will win a mystery prize!

Prizes will include GHD Hair Straighteners!

14 Golfers tee off in aid of charity

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 27, 2016

A SEDGLEY charity has been boosted by the Tipton and Coseley Building Society's annual golf day.

The Tipton's event raises funds for the Beacon Centre in Sedgley and is a key date in the society's fund-raising calendar. Compton Hospice also benefits.

Some 16 teams helped to raise £2,900, with The Tipton's Charitable Foundation also contributing £2,500, meaning Beacon and Compton Hospice each received £2,700.

Beacon's head of enterprise operations, Tracey Ford, said: "The money raised in aid of Beacon will make a huge difference in our work to help people living with sight loss across our communities. Our vital services include health and wellbeing sessions, talking newspapers, social groups, activity groups and much more. None of this would be possible without the support of organisations such as the Tipton."

Ukulele gig aids charity

A SEDGLEY concert of ukulele and a capella world music will raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support next month.

The Jookulele Band and Rough Diamonds are performing at at All Saints Church, Vicar Street, on Saturday, November 12 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 and available from Mike Edwards on 01902 882022.

FOCUS ON SEDGLEY & GORNAL AREAS

An inn-spectre calls as pub licensee serves up spirits

STAFF at a Dudley pub have been spooked by a mysterious cleaning ghost.

Footage has been released on the Facebook page of the Chapel House, in Ruiton Street, of what appears to be ghostly movements of a mop and a wet floor A-board sign.

It initially seems to innocently shows licensee Katie Ann Round set up the A-board and the mop in a back room, before walking around the room to calling for her fiancé Ben Parkes.

As she leaves the room, the A-board appears to move and fold itself neatly on the floor. Then, as Ben enters the shot, the mop in the corner of the room is propelled across a table.

The footage was filmed at the start of the month, when Katie, aged 31, of Tividale, was at the back of the pub cleaning.

Kitchen

Katie said: "I was cleaning up at the end of the night and heard something in the kitchen, I went out to look and couldn't see anything so I thought my other half was pulling my leg."

Ben, aged 35, also of Tividale, said: "I was cleaning the bar at the time and Katie called me so I went round the back and that's when I saw the mop move."

Katie added: "He jumped out of his skin. When we looked at the footage later, we couldn't believe it."

The footage could be the work of a hoaxer, though staff maintain the spook encounter was real.

The previous Friday a glass on a shelf above the bar propelled off and hit Ben hard



Licensee Katie Round and her fiancé Ben Parkes at The Chapel House, Lower Gornal

in the chest, he said. Regular Brian Bate, aged 68, who has been coming into the pub for the last 40 years, saw what happened on that occasion.

He said: "It was really weird. It wasn't like the glass just fell off, it flew off."

"Ben was standing by the fridge when it happened, so it flew at him quite a way."

Ben and Katie researched the pub, which

they took over nine weeks ago, after the first ghostly encounter.

"It turns out" Ben said, "that the cellar at the pub, and the arches in the cellar were barred and used as overflow cells for the nearby police station."

"Before the local chapel was built too, the pub was where the congregation met every Sunday."



Stills from the Facebook footage

"Sometimes, when you're upstairs too, you can hear footsteps coming up the stairs and onto the landing, but then they just stop."

But the ghostly goings on haven't put Katie off.

"I think it gives the place a bit of character" she said. "And I think ours is a friendly ghost!"

Apprentices praised for homes work

CONSTRUCTION apprentices at Dudley Council have been recognised for their involvement in the development of new council housing in the borough.

Sixteen apprentices received tool vouchers from Keepmoat for their work on the properties, which includes two blocks of flats and three houses.

They carried out carpentry, brickwork, plastering, roofing and electrical work as part of their NVQ accreditation at construction sites as The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston last year.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment, said: "It's great to see these young people being recognised for working so hard to gain experience and expertise in the construction industry."

Homes at The Walk are at a former council depot. There are six two bedroom supported housing apartments and three two bedroom general needs houses.

Police patrols are increased

POLICE patrols have been stepped up after reports of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour happening around the area.

The incidents are believed to be by groups gathering on the Beacon Estate, in Sedgley.

It comes after officers have received a number of calls about groups gathering around the estate and reports of damage.

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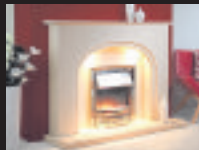
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Treat yourself to £100 spree at new store

TO celebrate the re-opening of the new-look Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Gardenlands Garden Centre, Shipley, we're giving away £500 worth of voucher cards between five lucky Chronicle readers.

Winners can each treat themselves to £100 in seasonal must-haves from the retailer's stylish new autumn/winter collections for him and her.

The new-look store will feature some of the retailer's most sought after men's and ladies wear from Country Rose, Isle, Honor Millburn,

One Valley and P.G. Field, plus the latest gifts and accessories.

Ladies, look out for the high-light transeasonal Seafarer line from popular label Country Rose. Inspired by on-trend nauticals and perfect for an off-duty look, this is the first of three exciting collections for autumn/winter.

And don't miss the new menswear offering from One Valley, with stylish casualwear in a warm palette of navy and berry tones.

As part of one of the UK's largest high street chains, the store is part of a portfolio of 380 Edinburgh Woollen Mill stores spanning the UK.

The new store can be found at Gardenlands Garden Centre, Bridgnorth Road, Shipley, Wolverhampton, WV6 7EJ.



Browse the exciting new collections

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill

And to be in with a chance of winning a £100 voucher card to spend in the store, simply answer the following question:

Where is the new Edinburgh Woollen Mill concession located?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Edinburgh Woollen Mill competition, Chronicle editorial 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, November 3.

Terms and conditions: Voucher

cards may be exchanged for goods at any Edinburgh Woollen Mill store. Voucher cards can be exchanged for goods of a higher price than their face value on payment of the difference. They can also be exchanged for goods of a lesser price than face value, where change for every full pound will be supplied in voucher cards and pence will be supplied in coinage. Voucher cards cannot be exchanged for cash. Five winners will be able to collect £100 worth of vouchers cards from The Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Shipley by presenting one piece of ID.



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Hospital staff in lather for charity

HOSPITAL staff are aiming to raise bucket loads of cash for Children in Need by staging a charity car wash.

Workers from different departments at West Midlands Hospital, in Halesowen, are teaming up to support the annual appeal on Friday, November 18.

Patients and staff can have their car washed for a minimum £3 donation on the day between 10am and 2pm.

Employees will staff the car wash on an hourly rota basis and staff will also be making donations to wear fancy dress for a day or a Pudsey bear item.

Tania Peters, quality improvement manager, said: "We are looking forward to supporting this national appeal.

"It promises to be a great day and staff in fancy dress will add to the occasion."

Shell-shock as tortoise found



Appeal – a pet dog presented its owner with this tiny spur-thighed tortoise

A DOG owner was shell-shocked when his pet brought him a little gift – a tiny tortoise.

The RSPCA was called to Gate Street, in Tipton, after the reptile was found and safely retrieved from the dog.

RSPCA inspector Dawn Burrell went along to collect the spur thigh tortoise, believed to be aged around one, and took him to a nearby specialist exotic vet.

She said: "Dogs and cats often bring in rather random things for their owners but I think this gentleman had a bit of a shock when his pet brought in a tiny tortoise.

"He knocked on his neighbours' doors to see if anyone owned a tortoise or was missing one but had no luck so he popped the little one in a shoebox and called us.

"The tortoise – now named Terry – is being cared for at the veterinary practice and is doing well. But we still don't know

Better results, but school will still shut

A SCHOOL due to close next year recorded the second most improved exam results in the Dudley borough – despite council bosses saying they had 'no alternative' but to shut it.

GCE results at Coseley School show a 16 per cent increase on 2015, with 47 per cent of pupils gaining five A* to C grades, including maths and English.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Although the five A*-C figure is improved and welcomed, the measure of progress using the new national measures for Coseley is well below the national expectation."

But Councillor Star Anderton, who is against the closure, said argued Dudley Council 'did not give the school a chance to improve'.

Phil Nicholls, assistant head at the school, said he was 'exceptionally proud' of the pupils.

Woman in scissors attack on partner spared immediate jail

A WOMAN who attacked her boyfriend with scissors during an alcohol-fuelled row has been given a suspended sentence.

Gemma Maiden, of High Street, Quarry Bank, had been on a night out with her long-term partner Ben Chapman on August 2 when an argument broke out.

Mr Chapman punched Maiden first – but she attacked him with the scissors as he went to leave their home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He was left with scratches down

his back, prosecutor Helen Chamberlin said. Maiden, aged 25, said she had no recollection of hurting him in that way.

They had been out celebrating after Mr Chapman was given an award for entertaining at a Mecca Bingo hall. But an argument flared in their bedroom.

Maiden said it was over a phone but Mr Chapman told police it was over a comment she had made about his award.

The court was told the couple has 'now very much reconciled' and, in an unusual move, Judge James Burbidge QC invited Mr Chapman

to give his view before he sentenced Maiden. Mr Chapman said what Maiden did was out of character and that she was getting help to deal with mental health issues.

The court was told she has seven convictions for 16 offences, which include dishonesty, criminal damage and traffic offences. He also told the court that he had sought to retract his complaint over Maiden's behaviour a week later.

Maiden was given a jail term of four months, suspended for 18 months. She will also need to undertake a 30-day rehabilitation activity requirement over 12 months.

See light and vote for town

RESIDENTS across the borough have been urged to vote for Dudley town centre in an international lighting award.

In the last two years, the town's market place has undergone a multi-million pound revamp including a new feature lighting system. This has now been short-listed in a global competition for a City. People.Light award, with 14 other projects.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, for planning and economic development, said: "Being nominated alongside projects from around the world is testament to the fantastic system we have in place."

Vote at http://www.lighting.philips.com/content/B2B_LI/en_AA/campaign/city-people-light.html before October 31.

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A line-up of Villiers apprentices – picture taken in 1951



The two millionth Villiers engine being presented to the Science Museum



Villiers apprentices in 1958 when 2100 worked for the Company



Sunbeams cycle department with Charles Marston on the left and his father on the right



Villiers engines on display at Tettenhall including a fine cutaway example

Great name started life making pedals

ONE of the great names in British motorcycle engine production, Villiers Engineering, started life making cycle pedals.

In 1898 John Marston was dissatisfied with the pedals he was fitting to his Sunbeam bicycles. He despatched his son, Charles to America, on a sales trip and to visit Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut, to obtain rights to their superior pedals.

On his return a small japa-
nising business in Villiers Street was bought, and turned over to pedal manufacture, supplying other makers besides Sunbeam. In 1920, the new company was sold outright to Charles Marston, and in the same year they developed the first free-

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

wheel, soon to be wanted by all cycle makers.

In 1912 the company made its first engines, a 4-stroke 350cc and a 2-stroke 269cc, and this soon became the main part of Villiers' business, supplying engines for motorcycles, generators and many other purposes.

In World War Two, they not only continued supplying their engines for military applications, like generating sets and powerful chainsaws, but made thousands of shell fuses.

After the war they carried on making a variety of en-

gines, the two millionth being made in 1956. In the early 60s the company was taken over by Manganese Bronze and in 1966 merged with AMC to become Norton-Villiers, which in turn merged with BSA in 1972 to become Norton-Villiers-Triumph, in a desperate attempt to save the British motorcycle industry fighting a losing battle with Japanese imports.

Norton Commando motorcycles were even made at the Marston Road works, but it was not to be and the company went into liquidation in 1978. At the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre there are Villiers engines on display, and others awaiting restoration. Help from volunteers is sought.



Heads down for the intricate job of inspecting the engine components during the war

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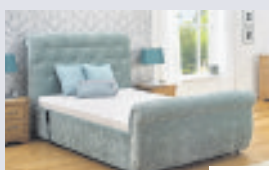
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Driver admits causing death of passenger

A DRIVER has admitted causing the death of his passenger after the car they were in smashed through a garden wall in Dudley.

Timothy Pearson, aged 23, was killed when a Nissan Skyline driven by Jamie Wharton left the road and careered into a garden in St Peter's Road, Netherton.

Wharton pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving. The 31-year-old, of Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, had been due to stand trial on a charge of causing death by dangerous driving but the Crown Prosecution Service agreed to accept a guilty plea to the lesser charge.

The court heard the pair were in the car together on the evening of June 3, 2014, when it left the road in wet conditions. The Nissan

skidded sideways off the road in a 'crab-like' movement. Mr Pearson, from Quarry Bank, was pronounced dead at the scene. Wharton was injured but has made a full recovery.

Wharton, who was dressed in a dark suit and white shirt, showed no emotion during the hearing and spoke only to confirm his guilty plea as family and friends of Mr Pearson looked on from a packed public gallery.

Prosecuting, Miss Sally Hancox, said the wet surface and that the car had moved sideways made it difficult to determine how fast it had been going. But she said it was the prosecution's case that Wharton's driving fell 'not far short of dangerous driving'.

Judge John Wait said: "Loss of life is not something which just happened in June 2014 but continues to affect many lives now.

"That person who lost their life now more than two years ago is irreplaceable to those who lost him."

Tricks in store as gymnast leaps in for opening



Gymnast Kristian Thomas opens the new Aldi on the site of the former Old King Arthur pub in Dudley

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 27, 2016

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas unveiled a new supermarket in Dudley – as shoppers queued around the corner to get in.

Kristian, who hails from Wednesfield, cut the tape to mark the opening of the new Aldi store on the site of the old King Arthur pub on the Birmingham New Road.

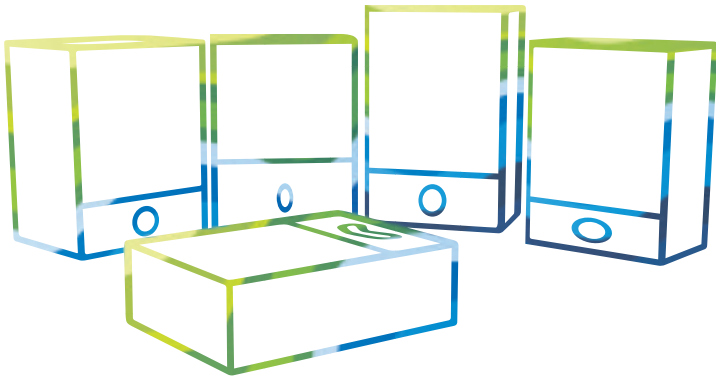
Dozens of shoppers waited outside for the doors to open at 8am, eager to get their hands on gifts which were being given out to mark the occasion.

The first 100 people in the queue were handed golden envelopes, giving them the chance to win top-of-the-range TVs, radios and smartphones.

Olympic medallist Kristian, who trains in Halesowen, was joined by children from Priory Primary School to open the store and posed for pictures with shoppers.

He was even convinced to show off his gymnastics skills, with a shopping counter taking the place of the pommel horse.

The supermarket has opened less than a year after the King Arthur was bulldozed and has created 35 jobs. Store manager Justin Leich said: "There was a great buzz at the store and customers seemed to enjoy experiencing their brand new store."



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Exhibition fires quest to solve knights' mystery

A NEW exhibition exploring the mystery behind the Bilston Knight has been launched.

With unknown designers and vague theories about their origins, the knights have become a unique and mysterious export from the region.

The small cast iron hearth furniture decorative pieces started popping up in the 1930s. The fireside companion set comprised a medieval knight with three hooks on its back to hold a shovel, brush and tongs, as well as a hinged helmet giving access to a poker.

The companion sets did not come with markers on them, leaving informed guess work to figure out which firms cast the iron.

Emerged

However, similarities between Bilston firm Canon's gas fires and fireside companion sets emerged around the time locals started calling them Bilston Knights. The firms behind the creations are believed to have included Bilston Foundries and Cannon in Bilston, Chatwin's in Tipton, and Fryer's, Shaw's and Harper's in Willenhall.

Paul Quigley, Curator of History and Local Studies at Wolverhampton Art Gallery, said: "There's been a bit of a mystery surrounding these very popular sets. People who have seen the exhibition have recalled their grandmother having similar sets.

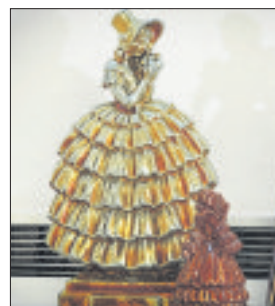
"It seems the knights were very popular at the time when coal fires were still used.

"Now there is a nostalgic element that attracts people to these. They're also symbolic of trades with the iron production and enamelling associated with the area."

Once each item had been designed a wooden version was made by a pat-



Companion sets featured in the display



The knights' origins are explored



Curator of History Paul Quigley at The Quest for the Bilston Knights

tern maker. A molten cast iron was then poured into the mould and after cooling it was broken with the casting removed.

From there the knights were sprayed with an enamel slurry.

Most of the designs were of knights, although other designs included the crinoline lady, Mr Punch, Mr Pickwick and various animals. The knights

highlight Bilston's rich history in producing cast iron and enamelling, with Bilston enamels becoming synonymous with decorative enamels.

The Quest for the Bilston Knights, which will remain open at Bilston Craft Club until January, is an attempt to piece some of the scant knowledge on offer into an exhibition for the first time.

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Tom, Wave hello to solo stardom

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

TOM Chaplin is feeling epic on his debut solo album *The Wave*.

Constantly returning to an aquatic theme, these songs will please fans of his band Keane with crowd-pleasing choruses and anthemic grandeur. But he is also good on the piano-led ballads.

Key tracks include *The River*, *Still Waiting*, *Quicksand* and *Hardened Heart*, the latter about defeating his personal demons. There is a melancholic feel to the album but the songs are also uplifting, and his vocals soar.

His Brum Glee Club gig on Sunday is sold out. His next could be at an arena if this catches the ears of U2 and Brandon Flowers' fans.

Seasick Steve is in fine form on his eighth album, *Keepin' The Horse Between Me And The Ground*. The double CD features 20 songs ranging from raw blues stomps to wistful hobo laments with a little country and rock too.

Highlights include *Hell*, which recycles the *Spirit In The Sky* riff as Steve decides where to send all the politicians and bankers; the poignant *Shipwreck Love*; plus some heartfelt covers of *Gentle On My Mind*, *Everybody's Takin' Love*, *Signed DC and Hank Williams' I'm So Lonesome*.

The end of a relationship has inspired many albums so its refreshing that **Jack Savoretti** on his latest, *Sleep No More*, sings about staying together through the difficult times that all couples at some time face. The singer-songwriter's velvet on sandpaper voice is appealing, as are these restless songs that he describes as 'a love letter to my wife'.

He recorded each song in a day in



New wave – Tom Chaplin on the road

a bid to capture the emotion and it has worked, an essential rawness not overpowered by lush touches like the strings on *We Are Bound*. Other highlights include the gently rocking *When We Were Lovers*, the heartfelt *I'm Yours*, the soaring *Troubled Souls* and the title song with its Ennio Morricone movie theme feel.

Savoretti made his name with his last album *Written in Scars* but has surpassed it with *Sleep No More*. He is in concert at Birmingham O2 Institute on Thursday, November 3.

Rebecca Ferguson is one of the best singers discovered by The X Factor but I feared for her career when her last album took the redundant step of covering the Billie Holiday songbook, due to the similarity in their smoky vocals. New album *Superwoman* reinvents the Liverpoolian songstress as a soul singer, albeit one with her own

distinctive phrasing and vulnerable emotive style.

Bones, the opening song and single, swells nicely and there are retro nods (a hint of Motown on *Don't Want You Back* and *Stax* on the title song). Even so-so power ballads are elevated into something special when showcasing Ferguson's tender-tough vocal. Rebecca Ferguson is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, November 2.

Broadway star **Idina Menzel**, best known for belting out *Defying Gravity* and *Frozen's Let It Go*, turns to power ballads – the closest pop genre to showtunes – for her fifth solo album, *Idina*.

None of the 12 original songs are likely to set the charts aflame but on *Queen Of Swords* she shows that she is a match for such divas as Celine Dion. Her voice is at its most interesting on a (relatively) restrained song like *I See You*, though even then a show-stopping finale can't be resisted.

New York synth duo **Phantogram** are on the cusp of the big time with album *Three* and key track *You Don't Get Me High* Anymore, sounding like Lana Del Rey given a dubstep revamp. With a sound that ranges from Mercury Rev-like indie quirk to twitchy Skrillexish arrangements, Sarah Barthel and Josh Carter are an intriguing musical partnership who could appeal to fans of Sia and Halsey thanks to the blend of electronica with Barthel's alto vocal.

Australian outfit **Jagwar Ma** conjure up a glorious blend of psychedelic pop and dance music that harks back to the heyday of The Stone Roses and Primal Scream on their second album, *Every Now & Then*, whilst fellow Aussies Tame Impala are also brought to mind.

Highlights include the jangling guitars and propulsive synths of *Say What You Feel*, which morphs into a cousin of Chris Brown's *Beautiful People*, and the Fatboy Slim-like *Give Me A Reason*.

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Norma Aston –
all my confidence
is back

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) with an implant retained over-denture."

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture."

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees."

"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'"

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDIP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

to go away and think things through before making a decision."

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDIP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great."

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan."

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it."

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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PICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the cameras and smart phones did their work.

But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years,

but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like *Strictly Come Dancing*, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted."

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman who had a long-standing problem resolved by Denture Clinic Principal

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Simon Patel's amazing Star Wars Death Star themed pumpkin



One of the artist's 3D efforts which were carved specifically for a commission in London



The sculptor has even made figures for some of his pumpkin faces



Another comical spooky face

It's pumpkin power!

IT started as hobby to get his son excited for Halloween but 10 years on Walsall spooky sculptor Simon Patel has turned pumpkin carving into an art form.

The 40-year-old father-of-two from Primley Avenue, Walsall is well and truly back in the 'spirit' this year and is expecting to make dozens of detailed models with London celebrity 'haunts' Mahiki bar and Bodo's Schloss among his growing list of clients.

Once October 1 swings round the house hus-

band wastes little time breaking out his carving tools and has already made 16 pumpkins for a staging company based in the capital.

Ironically having started out his craft for his nine-year-old son Dylan's first Halloween, now Mr Patel does not have any time to make any for his own home such is the demand for his work.

He said: "Now I get requests from all over the place. I am taking some down to London right now. I will probably make 30 to 40 this year. Once October comes round I get started. My kids start asking 'Dad can you make me a pumpkin'."

"I used to do them for the house but now I get so many people asking me for them I don't really get the time.

"I am going to try and get some out on the garden again this year though."

Remarkably Mr Patel originally made a name for himself using rudimentary spoons until he decided to take things a bit more seriously a couple of years ago by purchasing a German-manufactured set specifically for carving pumpkins which is sold in America setting him back around £150.

Although with some of his pumpkins shifting for around £75 each it has proved to be a worthwhile investment.

You can follow Mr Patel on social media to see his designs at 'Simon Patel' on Facebook and @simondrawne on Twitter.



Simon seen among the pumpkins



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Museum transformed into Halloween House of Horror

SPOOKTACULAR events will be taking place at a popular visitor attraction this half-term school holiday.

From scary craft making to pumpkin carving, Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath will be transformed into a haunted mansion for Halloween.

Events will run until tomorrow (Friday) with the House of Horror Family Fun Day. More than 300 people are expected to visit over the course of the week.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services manager at the Barns Road attraction, said: "This is the fourth year we have done this now and the events get popular all the time. We often expect up to 300 to 400 people to come and it's a great atmosphere."

"Staff will be dressed in costumes and you can expect to find the odd

lizard, witch or magic potion around but nothing too scary. We would love to see adults and children come in costumes too.

"These events are important to us as they promote the community and our wonderful buildings.

"Over the past few years we have had a lot of people come who have not seen the buildings before and its lovely to see new faces.

"We would encourage anyone to pop along and get involved because it's minimal hassle for parents and there's lots to do and see."

The House of Horror Family Fun Day runs from noon until 4pm, featuring Halloween fun for all the family, with music, magic and more.

All the events are also supported by the Haden Hill Friends Group and booking is essential.

Call 01384569444.



Visitor services assistant Alison Hyatt promotes Halloween at Haden Hill House Museum

Company lands top manufacturing title

A DUDLEY firm has been crowned the overall winner of the 2016 Made in the Midlands manufacturing awards.

Alloy Heat Treatments was presented with the trophy at Austin Court, Birmingham. The business, based on the Grazebrook Industrial Park, has increased turnover by seven per cent and invested £850,000 in equipment, software and apprentices.

Sales director Ian Perks said: "Winning this award would not have been possible without our managing director, Adrian Church, who has done an incredible job in securing the future of Alloy Heat Treatment through these investments. It's unbelievable that all of our hard work throughout the year has paid off by receiving this great award."

The runner-up was another Dudley company, Petford Group, which has invested £8m to support growth this year. Also receiving the new Brexit award for outstanding achievement in exporting was MTI Welding Technologies, Kingswinford, which has won £4m in overseas orders since this summer's referendum on leaving the European Union.

Homes and retail bid in landmark masterplan

UP to 200 new homes, retail facilities, a gym and restaurants make up ambitious plans for a new development in Dudley

The proposals on the vacant site of Ibstock Brick Ltd off Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, are described as a 'landmark development' in the application submitted to Dudley Council.

In addition to the construction of up to 200 dwellings, the indicative masterplan sets out 7,205 sq m of retail space, 700 sq m for gym and leisure facilities, and a family pub or restaurant spanning 590 sq m.

The application for the development called 'Tansey Green', has been made by Ibstock Brick and Hawkins, on the site which was formerly used for clay extraction and brick manufacturing.

Integrated

The 18.8 acre site is bounded by Stallings Lane, the B4175, to the south, on the opposite site of which is the Pensnett Trading Estate. It is close to the Himley View residential development, which comprises approximately 335 dwellings.

The 'Tansey Green' developers state: "The proposed indicative scheme masterplan has been developed to provide a landmark development, integrated with the surrounding area."

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward Councillor Dave Tyler, said: "It is what we need as we look to regenerate the area. Kingswinford is extremely popular with families but we need new homes and facilities for

By Judith Hawkins

them. We need facilities to be in place that support the community."

In their design and access statement submitted to the council, the applicants say the development would 'significantly boost supply of housing within an area where there is currently a shortfall'. They add that it will also provide employment.

The developers add: "Tansey Green represents a significant opportunity to deliver a mixed use development which responds to local retail, leisure and housing needs."

"The scheme builds on the consideration of neighbouring developments such as the proposed extension of the Pensnett Trading Estate with its associated industrial and commercial uses, as well as the neighbouring Himley View residential development of approximately 335 new dwellings. All of which help establish the principle and acceptability of development on this land, the scale and massing of development on the site and the means of access."

New boarding house now open at school

OLD Swinford Hospital school has launched its redeveloped boarding house to prepare students for the next phase of their lives.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif officially opened Foster House, one of the school's oldest boarding houses that has now been modernised to create single and twin en-suite rooms for 60 Year 13 students.

The house ties in with the school's Year 11-13 initiative to prepare students for their next stage, either for university, apprenticeships or a work place. Students will have their own spaces to help them develop greater responsibility and independence.

To commemorate the opening, the mayor and mayoress, Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Mrs Zabeda Khanam, planted an apple tree in the grounds as part of the Boarding Schools' Association Boarding Orchard, which aims to have the largest orchard in the UK.

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Cafe crew serve up tasty calendar



December – Festive tinsel and little else

THIS is not just any calendar...this is a calendar featuring workers from M&S who dare to bare for charity.

Dubbed the 'magnificent seven' by their colleagues, these ladies, who work in the cafe at the Wolverhampton store, are hoping the calendar sells like hot cakes.

They were inspired to get naked for Macmillan Cancer Support as part of a nationwide M&S fundraising month in September. The calendar pays homage to the 2003 film Calendar Girls and the subsequent screen play which charts a Women's Institute fundraising effort for a local hospital.

Jane Williamson, aged 52, of Coseley has worked at the cafe for the last 35 years. She said: "We had such a lovely day when the photographer came.

"At first, we were a bit nervous about it all, but when we were altogether, it was really lovely.

"The photographer made us all feel at ease and I think we would do it again. Now we're known as the Magnificent Seven...who dare to bare!"

The calendar sees the girls topless behind balloons, cushions, flowers, an afternoon tea, men's straw hats, Pimms and fruit, tinsel, as well as cardboard signs detailing special events in each month.

Kirsty Tompkins, aged 41 of Penn Fields, has worked at the store for the past 11 months. She

Book a date with the 'magnificent seven' as they dish up fundraiser. Jessica Labhart reports

said: "I think when we were first asked about it we all agreed and then kind of forgot about it. Then it seemed to come around all of a sudden.

"We had a special pamper before it, so we had our makeup done and our hair done professionally then the photographer came in. I think it was a brilliant idea to do for such a good cause."

Helen Johnson, aged 54, of



Funds go to charity

Wombourne, organised the professional hairdresser to come into the cafe for the shoot. She said: "We had a few butterflies, but by the 10th or 11th shot, we were quite used to it!"

For Lauren Green, aged 23, of Tipton, the day of shooting for the calendar is particularly special. She said: "The day the photographer came in is the day that I found out I was pregnant, so it is really special to me."

So far, fundraising by the store has raised more than £3,000 for the charity during September alone. The fundraising initiative also saw the girls dish out hundreds of cups of tea and slices of cake for Macmillan's coffee mornings.

Worthy

Darren Murphy, store manager at M&S Wolverhampton, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our shoppers for helping us to raise such a phenomenal amount for such a worthy cause.

"We very much appreciate everyone's efforts and especially staff throughout the store who have been working hard behind the scenes over the last few weeks to help make this year's coffee morning and calendar extra special."

Not only has the calendar helped to raise the money for Macmillan, but throughout September, 10 per cent of each sale within the store



January – kicking off the year with a food plug

have gone towards the total.

The M&S Cafés have also donated 5p from every cup of coffee and slice of cake sold throughout September to the charity.

Nicola Keith, head of partnership management for Macmillan Cancer Support, said: "Each year we are astounded by the nation's efforts in getting behind the coffee morning and this year our expectations have been exceeded yet again.

"I would like to personally thank every single person who has helped make this year another great success, by visiting their local M&S or hosting their own coffee morning.

The event was a storming success, and we are hoping to have raised more than ever before.

"I have no doubt that thanks to M&S' support, we'll be able to fund even more essential professional posts.

"Cancer can be the loneliest place, but together M&S and Macmillan ensure that more people in the UK have the support they need in their own community, meaning that no one has to face cancer alone."

The calendar costs £5 and all proceeds from sales will go to the charity.

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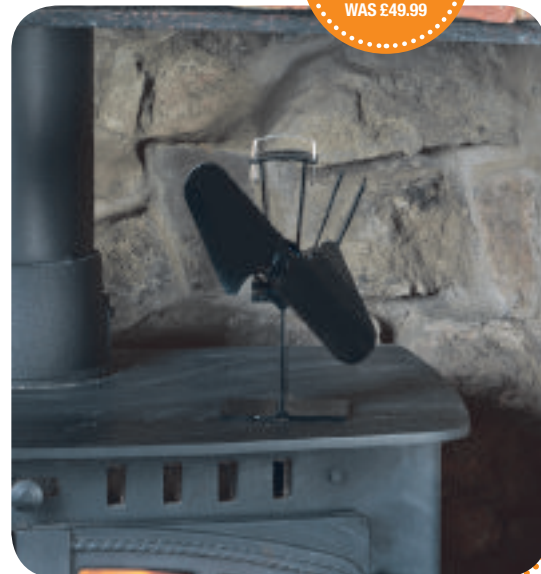
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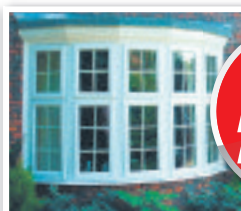
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Some California dreaming

By Lisa Haynes

IT'S barely dawn and I'm bleary-eyed and carrying a yoga mat towards the ocean.

The 6.15am wake-up call suddenly feels less brutal, however, when minutes later, I'm breathing through a sun salutation with rolling waves as the live soundtrack. "Listen to the ocean and feel the sunbeams on your face," our yoga instructor Jordan says soothingly, as we hover in tree poses.

Balancing barefoot on the sands of Huntington Beach, I quickly discover life pretty much revolves around the ocean here, and little wonder. . .

Dubbed Surf City USA, the uninterrupted stretch of golden coastline feels a million miles away from the Hollywood hustle (more of that later). Think technicolour surf shops on every corner, the wetsuit uniform as standard, athletic bods cycling/rollerblading/running past, giant boards tucked under their arms.

Huntington plays host to some 90 surf tournaments year-round, including the world-famous US Open. Scanning the event calendar, I'm devastated I'll narrowly miss out on seeing four-legged wave pros in action during the annual Surf City Surf Dog contest. Winning categories include 'Best Wipeout' and 'Best Crowd Pleaser'.

Not wanting to be trumped by pooches, we balance on boards the easier way, with stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) lessons at Huntington Harbour, where the water's tranquil and flanked by glossy waterfront houses and yachts.

It's a family-orientated spot, where children as young as four are on the water navigating mini kayaks and surfboards. Our surf-meets-canoë activity is led by local pro-surfer Rocky McKinnon. Within seconds he's assessed the board and paddle each of us should use based on our height, build and skill level: "Beginners are better suited to wider, longer boards for stability," he tells me, sensing my fear. Rocky shows us how to glide forwards, turn and stop with minimum wobble, until we feel like SUP pros after just 45 minutes on water. At Huntington Beach, it doesn't feel like people are working



Sun, sea and sand – go surfing or just hang out at Huntington City Beach

out for a red carpet appearance; it's more outdoorsy and raw – and it's infectious. Instead of reading by the pool (my usual favourite pastime), I hire a bike instead.

I cycle along the paved boardwalk from my beachfront Hyatt Regency hotel to neighbouring Newport Beach and back, with the Pacific breeze for air-conditioning and the long line of volleyball nets as my navigation system.

At night, the beach totally transforms, with the palm trees illuminated by flickering balls of open-fires. More than 500 fire rings are scattered throughout the beach and they're free to use, but on a first-come, first-served basis.

We treat ourselves to the more luxurious

option of a VIP 'fire butler' of sorts – someone who stokes the fire, sets up chairs, and keeps our drinks topped-up as we warm our jet-lagged faces around the flames. He tells us the most popular fire pit positions are hotly contested: "At weekends, people stake out the best pits in the early afternoon to use at night. But when it's something like the fourth of July, whoah, they can be queuing from 5am!"

We toast s'mores, the US campfire delicacy of chocolate biscuits and marshmallows sandwiched together, and munch them quickly before the marshmallow melts.

From beach life to the high life, we leave Huntington behind and drive the hour-and-a-

half to buzzy West Hollywood, where there's a marked contrast in the pace of life. I'm thankful for all the earlier ocean zen, because WeHo is anything but.

We check in at the uber-glam Mondrian Hotel on Sunset Boulevard, and marshmallows around the fire soon shift to Martini cocktails around the Skybar pool, with beach views replaced by Hollywood Hills property porn.

Rooftop hotels and bars are the best place to fully absorb the bright lights and twinkling skylines on a balmy night in West Hollywood, and E.P & L.P is one of the hottest new hang-outs – complete with epic views of Hollywood Hills to Downtown LA. We arrive for our res-

ervation at the same time as 300's Gerard Butler, and Orange Is the New Black's Ruby Rose sits next to us as we're served dinner downstairs.

For more impromptu celebrity spots, WeHo's super-cool Design District is an A-list magnet by day. Designer giants are interspersed with local boutiques like Maxfield, Curve and Intermix, where the Kardashian clan do their shopping.

Strolling around Maxfield on Melrose Avenue is like entering a treasure trove of designer pieces that belong in a Hollywood Hills mansion display cabinet. I become over-excited by a pair of Elisabeth Weinstock python boxing gloves and super-sized 1,500g Diptyque candle (the average size is 190g). Whipping out my iPhone to document them on my Instagram feed, I'm swiftly interrupted. "Um, madam, sorry, no pictures in here please," the shop assistant politely instructs.

My local LA pal tells me it's to protect celebrity clientele. A few weeks later, I notice Justin Bieber is in the very same boutique, filming Carpool Karaoke with James Corden.

For some mid-Melrose fashion fuel, we stop off at the cult Alfred Coffee – takeaway cups are branded with the Instagram-able 'But first, coffee' slogan – and snapping photos is most definitely allowed. The fuchsia pink Paul Smith store on Melrose also makes for a Pinterest-friendly posing spot. Other trendy WeHo hangouts with paparazzi at the ready are Urth Caffe (setting of many an Entourage scene) and hip vegan-Mexican joint Gracias Madre, where Beyonce and Jay Z go to grab a healthy lunch. Following their lead, we dine in the picturesque al fresco courtyard and share repolitos fritos (Brussels sprouts, cilantro almond pesto and lemon), and tacos stuffed with sweet potato, guacamole and cashew nacho cheese. Divine, and without rap star prices.

We get one final rooftop-and-blue-sky fix before boarding our Air New Zealand flight home, at LAX's very A-list-worthy Star Alliance Lounge. Catching rays on the glass open-air terrace, we top-up our SPF one last time, sip on Kir Royales and toast the Hollywood Hills in the distance. Hey, there's even a roaring fire pit, but this one comes without the toasted s'mores. . .

Elf adventures for farm visitors to enjoy



Visitors can join in the fun on nine special dates



There will be performers, games and creativity

THE leaves may only just be starting to fall, but people are already planning their festive fun as Santa's Elves get set to arrive at The Ice Cream Farm, just outside Chester, this Christmas.

Sharing the secrets of Lapland and cooking up activities for families of all ages, many have already booked their place at the Elf Adventure Challenge and are counting down the days.

The Elf Adventure Challenge will be at The Ice Cream Farm on nine key dates from the end of November and throughout December, featuring performers, games and creativity to deliver the ultimate interactive Christmas experience.

By Sophie Madden

Children and their families will be taken on a journey to become honorary elves where they will learn about how they help Santa get ready to deliver his magic every year.

Tickets are selling fast to the nine key dates, which include November 26 and 27 as well as December 3, 4, 9, 11, 16, 17 and 23, where the Ice Cream Farm is teaming up with Cheshire-based children's event and party company, Wonderslide who are delivering this unique, festive adventure.

All activities will take place indoors, making it the perfect venue for enter-

tainment whatever the unpredictable British weather. Jonathan Fell, director of The Ice Cream Farm, said: "We've got a fantastic mix of family and children's activities here at the Ice Cream Farm throughout the year and we wanted to offer something special for our customers for the festive period. We are really excited to be working with the Wonderslide team to host the Elf Adventure Challenge and believe that it will bring unmissable magic to the farm this Christmas."

For further information about the event, videos and to book your tickets visit the website www.elfadventurechallenge.com

Climb on board to sample history

By Chris Hutchinson

WE had almost decided on a city holiday to Sweden and Denmark when we saw a Fred Olsen cruise which included those two countries, plus the bonus of Baltic Sea countries Estonia, Latvia and Russia – with St Petersburg as the highlight.

The itinerary immediately appealed and, with the help and knowledge from the tour staff, we booked a series of excursions well within our budget.

After two sunny days' sailing, we entered the Swedish Archipelago, a group of 30,000 islands; our ship Balmoral weaved through a four-hour scenic passage.

Arriving in Stockholm, a panoramic city tour took in the highlights. Strolling around the oldest district, Gamla Stan, you absorb the heart and antiquity of the city.

In Tallinn, a medieval town in Estonia, our walking tour was a great way to soak up sights and sounds of this enchanting place, with narrow cobbled streets, secret courtyards and fairytale towers.

Troubadours and Minstrels entertain, singing and playing traditional songs in authentic dress. Stalls selling hand-knitted clothing and amber – known as Baltic gold – are sold at keen prices. Lunch of pork, cooked Estonian style, is a culinary delight.

The next morning, we arrived at St Petersburg, Russia. Two names are synonymous with this extraordinary city, rulers Peter and Catherine the Great, whose influence dominated Imperial Russia and still evident today. We made the most of our first day,



Catherine's Palace in St Petersburg, with its turquoise, gold and white facade

with tours of Peterhof Palace and the Hermitage, which houses more than 2.8 million works of art. Lunch in a typical Russian restaurant started with vodka tasting.

In the evening, we were taken to the Nikolaevsky Palace, featuring a traditional folk show, entertained by musicians, singers and dancers, each routine reflecting different regions of Russia. During the interval, Russian Champagne, vodka, caviar and canapés were served generously. The show ended with a rousing Cossack theme.

The city's highlights tour captures the most significant sights of St Petersburg. By now, we were only half way through our cruise.

Riga, regarded as the Pearl of Latvia, is characterised by three distinct faces, from 14th century medieval roots, quality Art Nouveau buildings

and 19th century wooden architecture. We visited the Dome Cathedral, while meandering round the quaint old town, you become enthralled in its history. Sailing to Denmark, we had unexpected sight of a pod of dolphins appearing either side of the ship.

Balmoral berthed a short walk from Copenhagen's iconic attraction, the Little Mermaid; despite three serious injuries, she sits serenely on her bed of rocks. After taking in Copenhagen's highlights, we arrived at the old fishing village of Dragor. We strolled the narrow streets of yellow cottages with thatched roofs, gardens ablaze with Hollyhocks, ending with Danish pastry and coffee served at an old inn.

Our final night in Balmoral's theatre featured all the artists in a spectacular show that left us clamouring for more.

fast the ticket

Telemann

Young indie stars
on way – Page 31

Jack the lad

Savoretti in town –
Page 31

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Signed
Father Christmas

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Tom Chaplin




Sunday, 7.30pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham
This intimate gig by the former Keane frontman is a certain full house and no wonder, with the buzz surrounding his solo debut album *The Wave* and single *Quicksand*.
See www.tomchaplinmusic.com

Vamos Cuba!




Tuesday to Saturday, various
Birmingham Hippodrome
From the creators of hit dance show *Havana Rakatan* comes a production from acclaimed Cuban choreographer Nilda Guerra featuring salsa, rumba, cha-cha-cha and reggaeton styles.
Visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Echo & The Bunnymen



Thursday, 7pm
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
One of the great Liverpool bands bring their post-punk psychedelic sounds. Expect classics such as *The Cutter*, *Lips Like Sugar* and *The Killing Moon* from Ian McCulloch (pictured) and co.
Visit wolvescivic.co.uk

Rebecca Ferguson



Wednesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The smoky-voiced Scouser is one of the finest talents to emerge via *The X Factor* and has left the *Billie Holiday* songbook dead end behind with her highly rated new album *Superwoman*.
See tsh.co.uk

CLUBBING

Propaganda/Halloween Spooktacular
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Super Hans (DJ Set)
Tonight, £15
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Night & Day Markets, Halloween Weekender with Craig Charles and Joey Negro
Tonight - Sun,
The Bond Company,
Birmingham, B5 5SE.
Call 0121 766 7400

Monday Madness
Monday, £2.50 - £5
Walkabout Inn Birmingham, B1 2DS.
Call 0121 632 5712

ROCK & METAL

The Bon Jovi Experience
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The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177 or 07986 577661

Fred Zeppelin
Tonight, £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Million Dollar Quartet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Doors Alive
Tonight, £12 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Badfinger UK Tour
Tonight,
The Core Theatre, Touchwood,
Solihull, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Glam 45 - Seventies glam rock plus Sweet 45
Tomorrow,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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John Banner Promotions present The King & The Killer
Tomorrow, £14.50 - £16.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Alien Ant Farm
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Hawklords - Fusion Tour 2016
Tue, £14 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Echo and the Bunnymen
Thu, £26.50 - £29
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RQ.
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CLASSICAL

Birmingham Repertory Opera Company presents: Die Fledermaus
Tonight - tomorrow,
St Barnabas Church Centre,
Birmingham, B23 6SY.
Call 0121 306 4820

Adrian Lord - piano recital
Tomorrow,
Worcester Cathedral, WR1 2LA.
Call 01905 732900

CBSO Youth Orchestra: The Wooden Prince
Sun - £5 - £23
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Traditional Song Session
Thu,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

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Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
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Monday Showcase: Jazz
Mon, Free
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
Edgbaston, B3 3HG.
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Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Birmingham,
B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Blues Pills
Tue,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Stylistics
Wed, £18
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

POP

Bee Gees Fever
Tonight - tomorrow, £10
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

80's Night with Live Band
Tomorrow,
Marston Green Parish Hall,
B37 7BT.
Call 07904 625181

Rebecca Ferguson - Lady Sings The Blues Tour 2016
Wed, £22.50 - £35
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Gabrielle - Dreams Come True
Wed,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Bye Bye Baby
Thu, £19.50 - £20.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
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The Lumineers
Sun,
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Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Nina Conti: In Your Face
Sun, £18.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Boy with Tape On His Face
Tue,
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 01902 552122

Rob Beckett - Mouth of the South...
Wed,
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RQ.
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Lucy Porter: 'Consequences' Tour
Wed, £15
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Julian Clary
William Aston Hall, Glyndr University, Wrexham, LL11 2AF.
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THEATRE

MAC Explorers: Dance
Tonight,
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
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Mavis Sparkle
Tonight - tomorrow, £9
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Barry Steele & Friends: The Orbison Story
Tonight,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
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Odyssey
Tomorrow, £6 - £8
The University of Birmingham,
B15 2TT.
Call 0121 414 4117

Henry V
Tomorrow - Thu,
The Crescent Theatre,
Birmingham, B16 8AE.
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Maximum RnB with The Manfreds
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Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
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Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs 2: The Magic Cutlass
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
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Chas & Dave
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
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The Mousetrap
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Steve Backshall's Wild World
Mon,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Cats
Wed,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Anastasia
Wed, £16 - £18
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Peppa Pig's Surprise
Wed - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

The Entertainer: Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company encore screening
Wed, £13 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

MISC. EVENTS

Sutton Record Fair
Tomorrow,
The Carpenter's Arms Community Centre,
Sutton Coldfield, B73 5UY.
Call 01213 212285

Family Music Maze Workshop
Sun,
Girl Guide Headquarters, Trefoil House, Birmingham, B1 1QL.
Call 0121 643 3686

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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Time to switch on the Telemen



Telemen get to the point – the London band bring their Brilliant Sanity album to the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton

LONDON indie rock band Telemen, recently seen on Later With Jools Holland, are in concert at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Wednesday (November 2).

The quartet's second album, Brilliant Sanity, was well received earlier this year. It saw the group, which includes former members of noughties outfit Pete And The Pirates, hone their angular blend of catchy pop tunes with moody undercurrents.

Comparisons could include Franz Ferdinand and Arcade Fire.

It will be interesting to see frontman Tommy Sanders and co translate album highlights like Tangerine, Düsseldorf and Glory Hallelujah into rock anthems for the live environment.

Telemen release the single English Architecture in December. For tickets see boxoffice@wolvescivic.co.uk or call 0870 320 7000.

Other key gigs include former

Keane singer Tom Chaplin's sold out Glee Club set on Sunday, the same night US band The Lumineers bring their Cleopatra World Tour to Birmingham O2 Academy.

Bear's Den have sold out the O2 Institute on Wednesday, the same night Gabrielle plays Birmingham Town Hall and Rebecca Ferguson is at Symphony Hall. Liverpool psych rock masters Echo & the Bunnymen play the Wulfrun Hall on November 3.



Jack's love letter to wife

SINGER-SONGWRITER Jack Savoretti releases his new album, Sleep No More, tomorrow (Friday) and is in concert at Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday (November 3) as part of his UK tour.

Sleep No More is the follow-up to his hugely successful breakthrough album Written In Scars.

The new album's opener and first single is When We Were Lovers, it sets the tone for a set of 12 songs that Jack describes as a "love letter to my wife".

"The whole point of this album is that it's about the stuff that keeps you up at night," Jack explains.

Sleep No More is an album about the very real struggles of holding on to love against the odds.

"It's the first album I've written as an adult... as somebody trying to be an adult at least!" laughs the 33-year-old Londoner.

Capture

Each song is a showcase for his soulful but rough at the edges vocals, from the honest warmth of I'm Yours, via the anthemic We Are Bound to the joy of Any Other Way.

Savoretti set himself a rule that each song would be written, recorded and completed from scratch in one single day.

"I wanted to capture how you sing a song for the first time," he recalls. "It's really hard to replicate, you can never beat that performance. It might not be pitch perfect but there will be something in it that connects."

"I'm not a perfectionist. On the contrary, I'm like 'No, that's great! Let's go with this!'"

Rep stage is set for Rivers of Blood play

A LINK between a former Express & Star editor and Enoch Powell's Rivers of Blood speech is explored in a major new play which receives its world premiere at Birmingham Rep.

Clem Jones was editor of the newspaper in 1968 when the MP for Wolverhampton South West made his controversial speech that unleashed a political storm.

The story is told by Clem Jones' son, former BBC political correspondent Nicholas Jones, in his book Sultans of Spin which has informed the play, What Shadows by Chris Hannan. It is staged from October 27 to November 12 with acclaimed actor Ian McDiarmid as Powell.

Discover famous Mousetrap twist

THE touring production of Agatha Christie's murder mystery with a twist, The Mousetrap, will begin the final leg of its UK tour at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday, October 31, to Saturday, November 5.

The Mousetrap opened at Nottingham Theatre Royal in 1952 starring Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim. It moved to London that year and is still running in the West End, the world's longest running stage production with more than 26,000 performances. The 60th Anniversary UK tour is a more modest record-breaker with over 1,100 performances.

Comedians line up for lots of laughs

BRITAIN'S best known 'Pub Landlord', Al Murray will have a full house for his Let's Go Backward Together show at Birmingham Rep on Sunday. But there may be some tickets left to see his Wolverhampton Civic Hall show on November 5.

Comedy highlights at Birmingham Town Hall include sardonic host of Radio 4's The News Quiz, Miles Jupp, on Saturday and ventriloquist Nina Conti on Sunday.

At the Wulfrun Hall, Tape Face (formerly The Boy With Tape On His Face) brings his crazed antics on Tuesday and 'Mouth of the South' Rob Beckett is on Wednesday.

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CHOICE



Darcy Bussell

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.45pm)

With Halloween just two days away, Strictly presents its annual fright-night spectacular, in which the 10 remaining dancing couples perform their spookiest routines, hoping to win the approval of the judges and the viewers at home. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present all the fun, while the fearsome foursome of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell decide who was frightfully good and who was awfully bad. Plus, there will be another showstopping group routine from the professionals to kick-off proceedings.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live International Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. With Halloween just two days away, Strictly presents its annual fright-night spectacular, in which the 10 remaining dancing couples perform their spookiest routines, hoping to win the approval of the judges and the viewers at home. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present all the fun, while the fearsome foursome of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell decide who was frightfully good and who was awfully bad. Plus, there will be another showstopping group routine from the professionals to kick-off proceedings.

8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gabby Roslin.

9.10 Casualty. Dylan is distraught when Dervla goes missing – although it soon turns out new F1 Sebastian knows something about the dog's disappearance.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. **10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

11.45 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. Ronesia Ranganathan meets some of the members of his extended family beyond Britain's shores.

12.15 Film: Halloween: Resurrection. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Film: They Knew What They Wanted. (1940) **8.00 Film:** Mr and Mrs Smith. (1941) **9.30** Coast. (R) **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Film: Vertigo. (1958) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **4.05** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **4.35** Flog It! **5.30** Film: National Treasure. (2004) Action adventure, starring Nicolas Cage.

7.30 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Classic comedy with the Home Guard during the Second World War, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier, Ian Lavender and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 Artsnight: 2016 – The Year of King Lear. A look at how Shakespeare's play resonates with contemporary audiences and why it is regarded as one of the playwright's greatest accomplishments. The programme examines five major productions being staged across the UK during 2016, and features contributions from actors Diana Rigg, Timothy West and Antony Sher, and director Nicholas Hytner.

9.30 Imagine: The Seven Killings of Marlon James. Alan Yentob meets the award-winning author, who became the first Jamaican writer to win the Man Booker prize in 2015 for his third novel A Brief History of Seven Killings, which spans several decades and explores the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in Jamaica in 1976 and its aftermath. Following the release of the book, James came out as gay in an article for the New York Times, and Alan accompanies him on a return trip to his home country, investigating how his novels provide an insight into the nation's history.

10.30 Film: The Harder They Come. (1973) Jimmy Cliff stars in this poignant Jamaican drama about a country boy who visits Kingston in search of stardom, only to get involved in drug dealing as his musical career takes off.

12.10 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **1.10** Film: Witchfinder General. (1968) **1.35** Film: (GMT) The Curse of Frankenstein. (1957) **2.55** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.50** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Cash Trapped. (R) **2.00** Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months. (R) **3.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Freddie Flintoff, Tim Vine and Angellica Bell answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The battle for a music career continues as the budding pop stars take to the stage once more in the fourth live studio round – and by now, they should be getting quite comfortable with being in the X Factor spotlight. Expect the usual confrontations and bickering as judges and mentors Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh fiercely defend their remaining contestants and critique the others – although whether any glasses of water will be thrown remains to be seen. Dermot O'Leary keeps the peace. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Shawn Mendes, Nicole Scherzinger, Gino D'Acampo and Stephen Merchant.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Carry On Cowboy. (1966) Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** (GMT) Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Manchester Half Marathon. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.15** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.10** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Wetherby. **3.55** Formula 1 Mexican Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage of the third practice session ahead of the 19th round. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Formula 1: Mexican Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Steve Jones presents coverage of the battle for pole position (Start-time 7.00pm), as the 19th round of the season continues at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

9.00 How to Build a Human. Documentary exploring the latest developments in artificial intelligence. Gemma Chan, who plays android Mia in sci-fi drama Humans, meets experts in robotics and computer programming from around the world, and visits a project attempting to create a computer more powerful than the human brain. Gemma participates in an experiment to create a robotic version of herself, which is then tested for its ability to produce convincing human responses.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Danny Dyer taking on Joe Wilkinson and Gabby Logan.

11.00 Michael Moore in Trumpland. Documentary filmed over two nights earlier this month in Cleveland, Ohio, capturing a live stage performance by the Oscar-winning film-maker in a Republican stronghold.

12.05 Film: The American. (2010) Thriller, starring George Clooney. **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Mac learns Neeta is pursuing legal action against him. (R) **3.00** (GMT) Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Helping homeowners in West Sussex and Surrey. (R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Film: Mosquito Squadron. (1969) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Busted. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.15 NCIS. Inquiries into the death of a marine land the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war – and a message found at the scene of the crime seemingly implicates Gibbs. Forced to confront a secret from his past, he calls his mentor Mike Franks for help. Drama, guest starring Muse Watson and Kari Coleman, with Mark Harmon. (R)

7.05 NCIS. One of Tony's old murder investigations is reopened, and, in an attempt to find the perpetrator, he decides to switch roles with Gibbs, leading the team in an inquiry that links the case to an embezzlement scheme. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Sasha Alexander, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R)

8.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Brody thinks that a sailor hit by a party bus in the French Quarter is connected to her sister's death when similarities between the two emerge, and the team prepare for the St Patrick's Day festivities.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Derby County v Sheffield Wednesday at iPro Stadium, Fulham v Huddersfield Town at Craven Cottage, and Blackburn Rovers v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Ewood Park.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Walsall v Coventry City, and Barnet v Hartlepool United.

10.25 Film: Step Brothers. (2008) Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** (GMT) Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sailors, Ships and Stevedores: The Story of British Docks **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** The Code **11.00** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **12.00** Kate Bush at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1982 **1.15** (GMT) The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **2.15** Close

ITV2
11.05 Catchphrase **11.45** You've Been Framed! **12.45** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **2.50** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.40** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **6.20** Film: Twilight (2008) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Twilight (2008) **8.55** Scorpion **9.50** The Xtra Factor Live **10.20** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.00** Release the Hounds **1.50** Film: (GMT) Wild Child (2008) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** Film: Wild Child (2008) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.35 FYI Daily **11.40** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **12.25** Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Golditz **1.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.55** (GMT) ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.45 Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **5.00** Fishing Impossible **6.00** Test Match Cricket **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **11.00** Test Match Cricket **12.00** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **1.45** Hell on Wheels **1.50** (GMT) Car Crash Global

E4
11.00 Black-ish **11.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** Film: Stuart Little (2002) **4.05** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Gogglebox **11.50** Rude Tube **1.55** The Inbetweeners

Film4
11.00 A City of Men in Paris (2011) **1.00** City of Ember (2008) **2.50** Casper (1995) **4.55** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Solomon Kane (2010) **11.05** Excision (2012) **12.40** Eyes Without a Face (1960) **1.25** (GMT) Rec 3: Genesis (2012)

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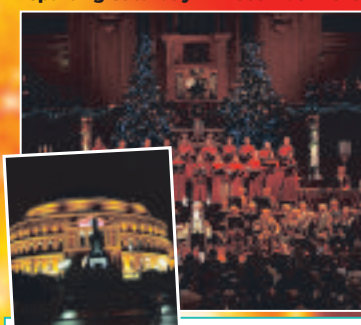
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CHOICE



Eleanor Tomlinson

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
Demelza refuses to speak to Ross, assuming that he will abandon her and return to Elizabeth. At Sir Hugh Bodregun's ball, she turns to Captain McNeil for support, and invites him to her room. George rides to Trenwith to talk Elizabeth out of cancelling their wedding, while Ross's fortunes seem to be changing for the better, with the offer of a prospering shipbuilding partnership from Tonkin, while Henshawe comes across the richest lode of tin he has ever seen when the mine clearance is completed.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 A Tale of Five Temples: The Story of Hinduism in Britain. 1.45 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.55 Points of View. 3.10 The Great British Bake Off: The Final. (R) 4.10 The Great British Bake Off: Class of 2015. (R) 5.10 Songs of Praise. 5.50 BBC News.
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Herefordshire. Matt finds out about the county's pear cider industry, helping with a harvest and visiting some of the world's oldest pear trees in Hellen's Manor, while Anita meets a traditional clog maker and explores the history of a farm. Joe Crowley meets a student documenting birds. Tom Heap delves into the history of working at sea, and Adam Henson harvests bracken for fuel on the farm. Including weather for the week ahead.
7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges. Laura Mvula provides the music.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a special episode from on board the Flying Scotsman during its journey across Cumbria and Yorkshire, with passengers sharing stories from the history of travel.
9.00 Poldark. Demelza refuses to speak to Ross, assuming that he will abandon her and return to Elizabeth. At Sir Hugh Bodregun's ball, she turns to Captain McNeil for support.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. The day's Premier League highlights, including Everton v West Ham United.
11.30 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
12.00 American Football. 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15 (GMT) The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 7.45 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 8.15 Greatest Gardens. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.45 Food & Drink. (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 Great British Menu. (R) 2.00 Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. (R) 3.00 Heir Hunters. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.40 Film: Frankenweenie. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Charlie Tahan. 6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes. 7.00 Inside Obama's White House. Examining how Barack Obama set out to end George Bush's wars in the Middle East and reset relations with the rest of the world. In Syria, when evidence shows the use of chemical weapons, Obama decides to bomb. But when the British Parliament votes against the intervention, he decides he needs the backing of a reluctant Congress. Foreign Secretary William Hague explains why the British Parliament voted against intervention in 2013. This episode also explores how Obama scored a secret deal to end the nuclear threat from Iran – behind the backs of his closest allies. (R) 8.00 Coast. The team explores dramatic shorelines, telling stories, investigating notable landmarks and exploring mysteries that have played an important role in the region's development.
9.00 Operation Goldrush with Dan Snow.
10.00 Nigel Farage Gets His Life Back. Satirical comedy, starring Kevin Bishop as the former UKIP leader, following him in the aftermath of the EU referendum as he adjusts to life away from the public eye.
10.35 Mock the Week. (R)
11.10 QI XL. Extended episode in which Sandi Toksvig invites Lucy Beaumont, Jason Manford, Rhod Gilbert and Alan Davies to answer questions on subjects associated with the North and the Norse. (R) 11.55 Film: Let Me In. (2010) A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz.
1.40 Countryfile. (R) 2.35 Holby City. (R)**

ITV

**6.00 (GMT) CITV: (GMT) Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Shesha a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.25 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Looped. 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Bear Grylls Survival School. 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 10.55 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) 11.25 Chopping Block. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 The X Factor. (R) 2.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 4.30 Spotless. (R) 5.30 Tipping Point. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Matt Allwright, Stacey Solomon, Louise Minchin and Keith Allen pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents last night's results, before the two lowest-scoring contestants compete in a sing-off.
9.00 Tutankhamun. The Pharaoh's tomb is finally discovered in 1922, but the find is overshadowed by the struggle for Egyptian independence intensifies and tension between Carter and Carnarvon.
10.00 TV News; Weather.
10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R) 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest fixtures, including Northampton Saints v Gloucester, Saracens v Leicester Tigers, and Exeter Chiefs v Bath.
12.15 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.
3.00 Motorsport UK.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.00 (GMT) Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) 6.15 Motor Sport: Caterham. 6.45 Mobil 1 The Grid. 7.10 Frasier. (R) 7.35 Frasier. (R) 8.00 Frasier. (R) 8.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 Film: ParaNorman. (2012) Animated adventure, with the voice of Kodi Smit-McPhee. 3.30 Film: Addams Family Values. (1993) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. 5.40 Channel 4 News. 6.00 Formula 1: Mexican Grand Prix Live. Steve Jones presents coverage of the 19th round of the season (Start-time 7.00pm), which takes place at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City. Nico Rosberg triumphed at this race last year, as it returned to the Formula One calendar for the first time since 1992.
9.00 Humans. New series. Return of the sci-fi drama. Several months after the climax of the first series, living machines Leo, Max and Mia are living in hiding in a coastal town, but their secret is threatened by a very special synth and a mysterious organisation. Hawkins is on the run in Berlin and is driven to a fateful decision, the Hawkins family tries to get their lives back on track, and a scientist is recruited by a tech company for an experiment in artificial intelligence. Carrie-Anne Moss (The Matrix) joins the cast.
10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) 11.10 Film: Rush. (2013) Formula One racers James Hunt and Niki Lauda develop a fierce rivalry over the course of the 1976 championship. Fact-based drama, with Chris Hemsworth and Daniel Bruhl.
1.25 Undercover Boss USA. The CEO of Retro Fitness poses as a contestant on a reality show. (R) 2.15 Grand Designs Australia. A family builds a three-storey beach house. (R) 3.15 Superfoods: The Real Story. Kate Quilton examines whether broccoli can help in the fight against cancer. (R) 3.40 Food Unwrapped. (R) 4.05 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 4.15 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Helping two homeowners in West Yorkshire. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Milkshake! Monkey. 6.05 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.00 Pets. (R) 7.05 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.15 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.40 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.00 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 11.50 World Rally Championship: Live. 1.10 The Gadget Show. (R) 2.10 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. 2.40 Film: High Spirits. (1988) Supernatural comedy, starring Peter O'Toole. 4.30 Film: The Ghost of Greenville Lodge. (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole.
6.10 Film: One Chance. (2013) Fact-based comedy drama following the rise to fame of opera singer Paul Potts. Throughout his school days as a bullied outsider and mundane adulthood as a mobile phone salesman, he longs to make something of his love of music, finally getting his opportunity when he takes part in TV contest Britain's Got Talent. Starring James Corden, Julie Walters, Colin Meany and Mackenzie Crook.
8.00 Ice Road Truckers. The consequences are huge when Darrell's truck breaks down. Plus, Mike Simmons' inexperience costs him on one of the country's toughest winter roads, while polar driver Todd Dewey has to retrace his tracks for hundreds of miles to recover part of his dropped load.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 The Peter Kay Story. Profile of the comedian.
10.30 Peter Kay Live at the Comedy Store. A performance by the stand-up comedian.
11.05 Peter Kay: The Early Years.
11.35 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) An insecure superhero is outraged at being dumped by her boyfriend, and in revenge uses her powers to make his life a misery. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.
1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Rat Recruits: Do or Die. (R) 4.00 Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) 4.50 House Doctor. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 (GMT) Canals – The Making of a Nation 7.30 Books that Made Britain 8.00 Frankenstein from The Royal Ballet 10.15 Annabel's Nightclub: A String of Naked Lightbulbs 11.15 BBC: The Secret Files 12.15 Fatal Experiments: The Downfall of a Supersurgeon 3.15 Books that Made Britain 3.45 Close
ITV2
1.15 Catchphrase 2.00 You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Shockers 3.00 Film: Corpse Bride (2005) 4.05 FYI Daily 4.10 Film: Corpse Bride (2005) 4.40 Film: The Smurfs: The Legend of Smurfy Hollow 5.05 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 6.05 FYI Daily 6.10 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 6.55 Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 12.00 Family Guy 12.00 American Dad!
ITV3
12.30 Lewis 2.30 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Case (1972) 4.10 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) 5.10 FYI Daily 5.15 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) 6.00 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Lewis 9.00 When Ant and Dec Met the Prince: 40 Years of the Prince's Trust 10.35 Charles: The Destiny of a Prince 11.40 FYI Daily 12.45 Film: The English Patient (1996) 2.35 Wycliffe
ITV4
11.15 Storage Wars: Texas 11.40 Monster Carp 12.45 Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Hasselt, Belgium. 5.00 Pawn Stars 6.00 Test Match Cricket 7.00 Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Hasselt, Belgium. 11.00 Test Match Cricket 12.00 Film: Total Recall (1990) 1.00 FYI Daily
E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea 1.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.00 Film: Dunston Checks In (1996) 3.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 6.40 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) 9.00 Tattoo Fixers 10.00 Crazyhead 11.10 Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) 1.30 The Inbetweeners
Film4
11.00 (GMT) Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) 1.00 Rat Race (2001) 3.15 Master of the World (1961) 5.15 Titanic (1997) 9.00 GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) 11.10 100 Bloody Acres (2012) 1.00 FilmFear: Night Cap 1.05 FilmFear: Squal 1.10 Kill List (2011) 3.20 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Haunting of Radcliffe House, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Meg Hamilton moves with her husband Alec and their children Penny and Harper to Radcliffe House, a remote estate on the Yorkshire moors that she has been hired to renovate. Following a series of strange events, it appears that their arrival has triggered paranormal emanations related to the estate's tragic past. Supernatural drama written and directed by Nick Willing, with Olivia Williams and Matthew Modine. (2014)

TUESDAY

Gifts for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A couple about to spend their first Christmas together initially decide not to buy presents for each other. However, each is tempted to secretly seek out something they know the other wants. Drama, starring Marla Sokoloff and Mark Webber. (2010)



The Greatest, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

WEDNESDAY

The Greatest, BBC1, 11.45pm
A grieving mother becomes obsessed with her dead son's last moments, while her unfaithful husband struggles to comfort her and their surviving son feels he can never live up to his brother's reputation. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon and Carey Mulligan. (2009)

THURSDAY

Back to Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman travels back to the Christmas before her engagement broke down and tries to repair what went wrong. However, she soon realises it is a challenging undertaking. Romantic fantasy, starring Kelly Overton. (2014)

FRIDAY

We Are the Best!, Channel 4, 1.35am
Two rebellious teenage girls growing up in 1980s Stockholm discover punk rock, and are inspired to start their own band, despite the mockery of their classmates. They find an unexpected kindred spirit in a born-again Christian girl, who has the musical talent they need. Drama based on Coo Moodysson's graphic novel, starring Mira Barkhammar. (2014)

A tale of adultery, fraud, bigamy and murder

According to the skipping rhyme she inspired, the Victorian serial killer Mary Ann Cotton is 'dead and forgotten', but it seems that's not quite the case.

Her story has intrigued writer Gwyneth Hughes, who explores the life of the poisoner in the new-two part drama Dark Angel.

And it also captured the attention of Downton Abbey star Joanne Froggatt, who plays Mary Ann. The actress says: "I was really excited about this role. Although Dark Angel is a period drama, Mary Ann could not be more different from (Downton's) Anna Bates."

In fact, Joanne was so intrigued, she even did some of her own additional research into Mary Ann to help understand what drove the real-life murder. She explains: "I read a book about her which is a factual account, as far as we know, of what happened. Then I did some research on female serial killers in general and the differences between male and female serial killers."

"Because to play somebody you have to make sense of what they're

doing in their head. Not only to make sense of it for you, but you have to make sense of their thought processes and their feelings. It's very challenging with such serious subject matter."

When we first meet Mary in this opening episode, she's in her mid-twenties, married to Billy Mowbray (Tom Varey), and has lost four children over the course of four years – only her fifth daughter, Margaret Jane, has survived.

The family, who have been living in Cornwall, decide to make a fresh start by returning to Mary's native Seaham, County Durham, where they receive a warm welcome from her mother Margaret (Penny Layden) and kindly stepfather George (Alun Armstrong).

In fact, George is so keen to protect his stepdaughter's interests, he persuades Billy to take out life insurance – and when Mary then meets flirtatious miner Joe (Jonas Armstrong) while buying arsenic to sort out a case of bed bugs, it looks like she will be collecting on the policy sooner rather than later...

It's the first in what becomes a string of crimes as Mary begins insinuating her way into other families.

Joanne believes Mary's losses, and the times she was living in, go somewhat towards explaining – although not justifying – her actions.

"We first meet her at the age of 25 when she has suffered the natural loss of four of her children. I guess she almost goes mad with grief at some points..."

"She is a working-class woman in the Victorian era and there's no opportunity, no choice. There's no going out and having a career. Everything was simply marriage and babies. Washing, cleaning, cooking and rats. It was a horrendous life and she always felt that it was a life that wasn't right. She always wanted more than that."

Joanne adds: "She can't accept her lot but goes about seeking a better life in ways none of us would choose. I was fascinated by the psychology behind it." Which is one of the reasons why Dark Angel should make particularly chilling Halloween viewing.



Joanne Froggatt stars in Dark Angel, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War, BBC1, 9pm

Part two of two. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall asks if lessons can be learned from efforts to tackle the trade in rhino horn, asking if legalising the sale of it and ivory could be the solution. He travels to South Africa to meet John Hume, who argues vociferously that owners should be able to harvest and sell rhino horn to generate the necessary funds to protect them and tries to convince Hugh regulated legal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn is the only thing that will save these species.

TUESDAY

Pride of Britain Awards 2016, ITV, 8pm
Carol Vorderman hosts the annual awards show from London's Grosvenor House, where Prince Charles joins some of the biggest names in TV, showbusiness, politics and sport, including Theresa May, Dame Maggie Smith, Eddie Redmayne, Simon Cowell, Ant and Dec and Peter Kay, paying tribute to this year's deserving winners. These include a nine-year-old girl who has battled through more than 500 operations for burns and is now raising £50,000 for charity.

Ordinary Lies, BBC1, 9pm

Warehouse manager Toke, aka crime-fighting superhero the Rain Town Knight, tends to a homeless girl called Chrissy after she is attacked by a group of women. He takes her to hospital to get treated and reveals his protective side when he provides her with food, shelter and even a job. Unbeknown to his colleagues or girlfriend, Toke gets wrapped up in Chrissy's life – bit by bit and is soon tested on how far he is willing to go to help her.

WEDNESDAY

Him, ITV, 9pm
Therapist Ross Brodie finds his whole scientific belief system called into question after he witnesses the truth about his young patient's formidable powers. Meanwhile, Azal remains unconscious in intensive care following the accident, and while Faith joins his family in praying for his recovery, his tormented teenage friend tries to find a way to use his unusual abilities to help him. However, the troubled young man soon comes to a

painful and irrevocable conclusion about how he can protect his loved ones. Supernatural thriller, starring Fionn Whitehead. Last in the series.

THURSDAY

Buble at the BBC, BBC1, 8pm

The BBC has always had strong links with the music world, although (Glastonbury aside) most of its in-depth television coverage tends to be consigned to BBC4. Last year, BBC One broke the mould by staging Adele at the BBC, in which the singer performed some of her greatest hits, while Graham Norton presented and interviewed the star. Happily, almost a year later, Michael Buble now receives a similar treatment, with Claudia Winkleman as host. Buble will be backed by his touring band as well as a 30-strong orchestra, as he runs through some of his best-loved songs from a career which spans over 20 years.



Buble at the BBC, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

The Apprentice, BBC1, 9pm

The candidates continue to fight for Alan Sugar's financial backing, although this week they are tasked with securing investment for someone else. Each team must help an entrepreneur launch their new cycling product and get the public to invest through crowdfunding. It's down to half of each team to embrace the world of guerrilla marketing, creating a head-turning PR stunt, while the rest concentrate on a campaign video. However, as the funding websites go live, technical failures and spelling mistakes cause problems.

FRIDAY

The Level, ITV, 9pm
Nancy's personal and professional lives collide when she sees a connection between her mother and the missing truck, as the full extent of Frank's monstrous crimes becomes clear, and she is forced to operate outside the law to prove her case against Nash. Hayley is let down by her ex-husband, leading Quinn to offer some much-needed comfort that provides food for thought, while Cherie doesn't seem to want to face the truth when Hayley asks her some probing questions. Karla Crome, Laura Haddock and Noel Clarke star. Last in the series.

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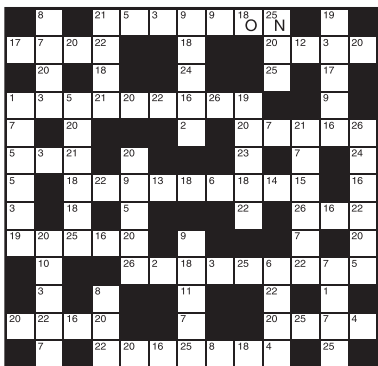
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BRAIN GYM No.401

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
D G Q A F X C Z Y P U B T
L E I V K J N S H O M R W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

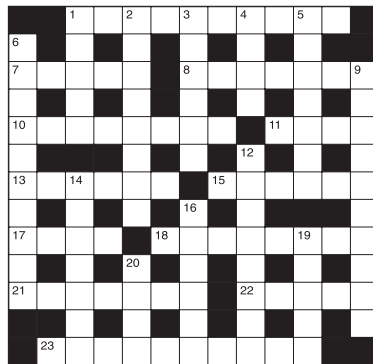
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Dockside worker who doesn't carry as much weight as others? (10)
- She writes a letter in French (5)
- It won't take you far towards becoming a dancer (3-4)
- Turn once set to music (8)
- Striking writing (4)
- About eleven, the ship moves off (6)
- Father takes nothing back for fabric (6)
- Female disease didn't start with mother (4)
- Its users have no need to take flight to reveal confusion (8)
- She plays a major part in a Shaw play (7)
- Bring up a matter of higher wages (5)
- Freedom from care for a body of men (10)

Down

- I ring up about the shrub (5)
- Seems a spirited sort of card game! (3,5)
- Troublesome roses are (6)
- Do a staggering dance? (4)
- A rising of workers (3,4)
- Its members presumably try to improve their services (6,4)
- Tidy instruction for the anagram solver (3,2,5)
- Talk with others having an opposite view? (8)
- Approve though possibly sore after the finish (7)
- Turn pale (6)
- Swindle in a tortuous way? (5)
- Flag with a tale of heroism (4)



Quick Clues:

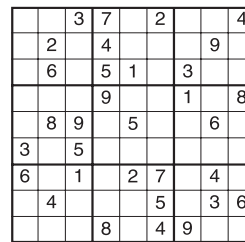
Across

- Corpse-like (10)
- Respond (5)
- Compelled (7)
- Female (8)
- Minus (4)
- Disprove (6)
- Type of shed (4-2)
- Comfort (4)
- Perverse (8)
- Sewing aid (7)
- Gutter (5)
- Contrition (10)

Down

- Amulet (5)
- Explode (8)
- Empty (6)
- Stagger (4)
- Sullied (7)
- Promotion (10)
- Jarring (10)
- Under obligation (6)
- Readily split (7)
- Confer office on (6)
- Cognisant (5)
- Musical instrument (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	3	8	2	9	1	6	7	5
7	2	9	5	4	6	3	1	8
5	1	6	8	3	7	2	9	4
8	7	2	1	5	4	9	3	6
9	5	3	7	6	2	8	4	1
1	6	4	3	8	9	7	5	2
3	9	5	4	2	8	1	6	7
2	4	1	6	7	3	5	8	9
6	8	7	9	1	5	4	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Capital; 7 Mason; 9 Age; 10 Remark; 12 Underhanded; 15 Extemporise; 17 Suffering; 19 Dot; 21 Get on; 22 Reverse. Down: 1 Mango; 2 Bit; 3 Race; 4 Back entry; 5 Counter; 8 Washer; 11 Underfoot; 13 Expert; 14 Excuses; 16 Hoist; 18 Need; 20 Men. QUICK - Across: 6 Durable; 7 Flood; 9 Few; 10 Take cover; 12 Impecunious; 15 Portmanteau; 17 Flattened; 19 Hid; 21 Stoop; 22 Account. Down: 1 Quiet; 2 Way; 3 Flea; 4 Illogical; 5 Doleful; 8 Result; 11 Imitation; 13 Evaded; 14 Pollute; 16 Fiend; 18 Each; 20 Boy.

Quiz

- What is Riccardo Muti's occupation?
- What is the chief residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury?
- Whom was the Big Issue magazine set up to help?
- Of what nationality was author Laurens van der Post?
- To which species of bird does the mynah belong?
- Which composer wrote the music for Gypsy and Funny Girl?
- In which Cornish resort is the Barbara Hepworth museum?
- Which playwright wrote The Browning Version in 1948?
- What are auctioned at Tattersall's in London?
- Who composed the incidental music for Peer Gynt?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 I Ching; 2 Cocoa/cacao; 3 Belgium;

4 Hugh Gaitskill; 5 Four; 6 Chicago; 7 Ice;

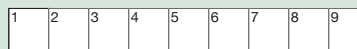
8 The river Tay; 9 Williams; 10 A duck.

Niner: SLAUGHTER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

13457 gives a country singer,
649572 gives an American film artist,
682675 gives a British poet.



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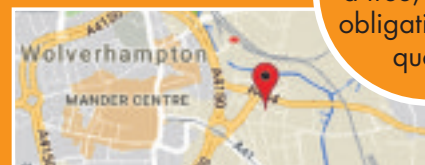
Before



After

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Country pub – the Shoal Hill Tavern in Cannock



Pigging out – the pork stack

With full bellies and a happy wallet, what's not to like here?

THE Shoal Hill Tavern is somewhat of a landmark to those living around the Cannock area.

So, after having driven past what must have been more than 100 times, we decided to give it a shot.

And we weren't disappointed. We visited the eatery early evening on a Bank Holiday Monday and, as the sun shone across the pub's green garden, families and friends sat drinking on the benches.

Though it is always a pleasure to see a pub full we did fear the number of people outside may mean the place was heaving inside too. Luckily for us, it wasn't too busy at all and we were quickly seated.

One thing to mention is the superb booking system. No-one likes having to call and book tables when you're off out or in a hurry – and Shoal Hill Tavern has the per-

Lisa Williams tucks in

fect solution: online booking. It's all really easy and can be done in a matter of seconds by mobile phone, via an operator called Open Table Inc. Anyway, back to the pub.

As we walked into the venue, we were greeted by a bright, lively atmosphere with rustic wooden furniture and floors. The Shoal Hill Tavern at Cannock has a few great offers during the week. The one we had come for was their weekly two mains for £20, which takes place every Monday. We had arrived at 5pm, and ordered the food, before I double checked we were entitled to the offer – only to be told it didn't start until 6pm as it was a Bank Holiday.

A little communication here from the staff would have avoided the confusion.

Similarly, I only discovered the pub had a specials board after we had ordered our food

and eaten our starters. . . The staff could make diners aware of any extra food that is available. Complaints now aside, I can discuss my favourite topic – the food. And we were impressed.

My other half and I selected the Charcuterie sharer; a wooden platter boasting rows of delicious cured, cooked meats, criss-crossed tiny gherkins and a small, glass pot of garlic infused olives.

Huge

A wonderful, plentiful selection of flavours and textures – and at just £9.95 a reasonably-priced starter for two. Now, on to the mains. My partner opted for the home roasted ham with egg and chips from the lunchtime menu. Other than the lack of greens, his plate was stuffed with food – a huge amount given that it cost just £6.55.

For my meal I selected an item from the

evening menu: The Pork Belly Stack. Now I'm a huge fan of pork belly and this really wasn't the best I've ever tried. It was a little dry and there didn't appear to be a great deal of it. This should have put me off my dinner, but the remainder of the dish meant it was entirely irresistible.

Beneath the pork was a creamy sweet potato and normal potato mash, which covered another layer of pork; which, this time, was juicy and tasty. Under that was a layer of deep green, curly kale – and the whole meal swam in a mouth-wateringly thick, creamy sauce.

I couldn't resist a dessert and opted for the raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake. Though the base of the cheesecake was not as crunchy as I would have liked the cheesy bit was creamy and smooth.

Seeing as the bill was just £44.50 – we left with our bellies full and our wallets happy.

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PROPERTY

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37
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 27, 2016

Extremely well presented end terraced property

An extremely well presented and tastefully decorated, this deceptively spacious end-terraced property lies in a popular residential area close local to amenities including shops, schools and public transport services.

Thought to be an ideal first time buyer's home, this well maintained property has two double bedrooms, two reception rooms, a breakfast kitchen, a bathroom, central heating and double glazing. "Interior viewings are highly recommended to all interested prospective purchasers, so this particularly pleasant home can be fully appreciated," said a spokesman for the selling agents.

It has an entrance hall, a dining room with a wall mounted modern electric fire, original type timber beams to the ceiling and double doors leading to the living room.

This space has a pebble-effect gas fire with a marble type surround, a hearth and feature fireplace, a door to the cellar and stairs off. An inner hall with laminate flooring leads to the kitchen.

The breakfast kitchen has a stainless steel sink top with fitted base unit further fitted base units with decorative laminate rolled edge work tops, a built-in oven with a four ring gas hob and cooker hood, an integrated refrigerator, freezer and dishwasher, plumbing for a washing machine, range of fitted wall cupboards, a fitted breakfast bar, wine rack and laminate flooring. An inner hall leads to the ground floor bathroom. This has a bath with a shower fitting, pedestal wash hand basin and low flush WC and ceramic wall tiling.

Off the first floor landing, bedroom one has laminate flooring while bedroom two has a built in cupboard. The rear garden has a paved area and a shared gated side entrance.

Skitts Estate Agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years. This means the people who own the company, run the company on a daily basis and are responsible for all aspects of its growth, success and professionalism. Currently, the four partners oversee eight branches and 30 staff across the West Midlands region.

UPPER GORNAL £119,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts

TEL: 01902 686868

EMAIL: sedgley@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

2 double bedrooms

Ideal first time buy

2 reception rooms

Breakfast kitchen



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New



SEDGLEY, Catholic Lane

An elegant imposing APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS gas centrally heated UPVC double/triple glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached on wide plot in prestigious district with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS. Accommodation provides reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 24ft through lounge, formal dining room, kitchen, utility room. Gallery landing, principle bedroom with bathroom en suite, three further double bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom, double garage, additional 10'3" side space and gardens rotated to the South, block paved driveway. EPC TBC. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Chase Road

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed THREE BEDROOM detached family home presented in superb order throughout with LARGE L SHAPE GARDEN comprising: hallway, shower room, extended 21'8" lounge, inner hallway, store, principal bedroom, kitchen, magnificent CONSERVATORY. To the first floor: landing with extensive fitted wardrobes, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking, garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Mansion Close, 'Earls Keep'

RARE OPPORTUNITY! Appreciably SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed, much improved detached family home where properties of this category are so rarely available comprising: hall, cloakroom, lounge, separate dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of contemporary style units and utility section. Four generous bedrooms (shower room en suite to principal bedroom), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £420,000

Offers in the region of £259,950

Offers in the region of £258,000



COSELEY, Crowesbridge Mews

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Fantastically well presented detached home with central heating & double glazing located in popular cul-de-sac. THREE BEDROOM property is tastefully extended & benefits from porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, utility room, open-plan lounge, sunroom, bathroom, master bedroom with ensuite, garage/ storage, garden, driveway. EPC:C. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Balmoral View, Milking Bank

Significantly enhanced, improved, Freehold gas centrally heated 'oak effect' UPVC double glazed detached at head of driveway offering further potential accommodation includes porch, hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, store, 'activities room', inner 'office section', cloakroom. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white contemporary style suite, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.



DUDLEY, The Broadway

FANTASTICALLY PRESENTED semi-detached situated on the extremely popular Broadway in Dudley. EXTENDED family home, along with central heating and double glazing also boasts, porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, EXTENDED KITCHEN, guest W/C, sitting room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden, integral garage, driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A SUPERBLY PRESENTED and EXTENDED family home located on the popular London Heights development in Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating this property also boasts, entrance porch, through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive bathroom, with enclosed rear garden and drive to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Traditional gas centrally heated and either UPVC single or double glazed semi detached of character with many period features having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now offering further potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling height), pantry, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, lengthy garage, garden. EPC:F SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £209,950

Offers in the region of £180,000

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £179,950

Offers in the region of £170,000



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Wrens Nest Road

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS WITH FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS! - Stylish, modern, gas centrally heated, double glazed, intermediate 'family home' comprising: hall, cloakroom, store, kitchen, living/dining room. To the first floor: three bedrooms, bathroom, and to the second floor a superb principal bedroom suite with built in mirrored wardrobes, walk in store/wardrobe & shower room en suite. Garden, parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Ettymore Road

Within immediate walking distance of the Bull Ring just TWO - gas centrally heated, double glazed two double bedroom homes nearing completion to a first quality specification. Accommodation to include hallway, cloakroom, kitchen (granite work surfaces & various integrated appliances), living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, garden, parking to forego. Prices £142,500 and £145,000. SAP: TBA SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising: hallway, lounge with cast 'living flame' fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built in units) bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC: E SEDGLEY



WOODCROSS, Robert Wynd

TREMENDOUSLY IMPROVED & OFFERING FURTHER POTENTIAL! Situated upon large corner plot a spacious double glazed partial gas centrally heated semi detached that has been significantly upgraded and now requires some finishing works comprising: hall, store, lounge, dining kitchen (formally two rooms) with an extensive range of stylish units, lobby, cloakroom, store. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, extensive corner plot, garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £150,000, NOW £140,000

Offers in the region of £149,950

Offers in the region of £142,500

Offers in the region of £134,950



NETHERTON, Church Road

This TRADITIONAL & BAY FRONTED, THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Rear Veranda, Three Good Family Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC F



RUSSELLS HALL, Ashenhurst Road

This STUNNING & COMPREHENSIVELY MODERNISED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME briefly comprises: Hall, Attractive Lounge, Stunning Breakfast Kitchen, Two Well Decorated First Floor Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & SUPERB GARDEN. EPC: F



RUSSELLS HALL, Ashenhurst Road

This THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lovely through Lounge, Modern Well Fitted Kitchen, Beautifully Re-Appointed Shower Room, Large Driveway & Pleasant Rear Garden. EPC: C



PENSNETT, Heydon Road

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME in brief comprises: Porch, Hall, Stylish through Lounge, Contemporary Gloss Kitchen, Gorgeous White Suite Shower Room, Driveway & Lovely Garden. EPC: D



COSELEY, Ebenezer Street

A surprisingly spacious traditional end of terraced property located in the popular Cosely area. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this TWO BEDROOM home has living room, dining room, re-fitted Kitchen, well appointed shower room and enclosed private rear garden. Viewing is recommended to fully appreciate what this house has to offer. EPC:D SEDGLEY

£124,950

£122,500

£119,950

£114,950

Offers in the region of £109,950

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SEDGLEY, Dumbleberry Avenue, Brownswall estate

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! Enviably situated, gas centrally heated, gas centrally heated & double glazed DETACHED requiring sympathetic updating in favoured district occupying a large plot comprising: porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, lobby, lengthy utility room/store, Three bedrooms, bathroom, w.c. Large (24 ft) garage, good sized secluded rear garden. EPC: F SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Sandyfields Road, Straits

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! tremendously modernised, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home with exceptionally flexible room arrangements presented in superb order throughout comprising: reception hall, L shape living/dining room, kitchen, dining room (alternative fourth bedroom?), third bedroom, "wet-room", toilet. To the first floor are: two dormer bedrooms & shower room. Garage, sheltered rear garden and panoramic distant views. EPC: C SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

SHOW HOME NOW OPEN FOR VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT. With construction now nearing completion, and just 5 plots available for sale, an exciting new development of gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Three designs available with prices from £218,500 up to £279,000 -Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

Offers in the region of **£240,000**

New price

WAS **£245,000**, NOW **£238,500**

PRICES FROM **£218,500**



SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

An appreciably spacious, gas centrally heated semi detached for improvement in favoured neighbourhood with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requires updating comprising: entrance porch, hallway, separate dining room, through living room, rear lobby, pantry, kitchen, utility/store, outer porch, outbuilding. Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Ward Street

ENLARGED, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached close to many amenities comprising: porch, hall, 17'3" lounge, enlarged & refitted 25'1" dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, large 'wet room' (former bathroom), parking, secluded rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY.



SEDGLEY, Dudley Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Conveniently situated on the Dudley Road in Sedgley this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED property offers lots of potential and briefly comprises of: porch, entrance hallway, sitting room, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, kitchen, utility, garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. EPC: E SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORD, Tunstall Road

An EXTENDED 2/3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED DORMER HOUSE superbly located within a desirable cul-de-sac, enjoying a beautifully landscaped /sunny rear garden, a LARGE DRIVEWAY and GARAGE, all enhancing the BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED and WELL APPOINTED layout EPC D



COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road

Conscientiously maintained & well presented detached bungalow located on the popular Upper Ettingshall Road area of Bilston. Benefiting from entrance hallway, this much improved property also boasts THREE BEDROOMS, fitted kitchen, shower-room, living room/ orangery, double glazing, central heating, enclosed rear parking, driveway to front. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£165,000**

Offers in the region of **£164,950**

Offers in the region of **£164,950**

£159,950

Offers in the region of **£154,950**



DUDLEY, Langstone Road, Russells Hall

A deceptively spacious semi-detached property located on the popular Russells Hall estate, this good-sized family home has so much to offer. Benefiting from entrance porch, central heating and double glazing, this EXTENDED house also boasts: open-plan lounge-diner, utility, fitted breakfast-kitchen, ground-floor wet room, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive fitted bathroom, enclosed rear-garden, garage and parking to front. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. EPC: B SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£134,950**



NETHERTON, Stoney Lane

This SUPERBLY EXTENDED & WELL PRESENTED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Well Fitted Kitchen, Well Appointed Wet Room, Three Large First Floor Bedrooms, Splendid Modern Bathroom, Large Rear Garden. EPC:

£129,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

A delightfully presented semi detached property located on a corner plot in the popular area of Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating this lovely starter home also boasts, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility/ storage room, guest W/C- TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£124,950**



WORDSLEY, Swan Lane

An IMPRESSIVE BUNGALOW offers a BEAUTIFULLY REAPPOINTED layout with Large Lounge, refitted kitchen with appliances, ONE DOUBLE BEDROOM and refitted wet room. The property has an attractive front garden and an easy maintenance patio garden with storage out building. EPC: D

No upward chain

£124,950



BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

THIS EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED & SUCCESSFULLY ENLARGED, TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY comprises: Attractive Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Delightful Conservatory, Two Generous Bedrooms, Beautifully Appointed Bathroom, Driveway & Pretty Garden. EPC: D

£124,950



BROCKMOOR, Leys Road

This RATHER DECEPTIVE & MOST APPEALING, MODERN STYLE, TWO BEDROOM HOME comprises: Pleasant Lounge, Spacious Well Fitted Kitchen, Two Good First Floor Bedrooms, Well Appointed Bathroom, Attractive Front & Rear Gardens & Rear Driveway. EPC: D

£109,950



COSELEY, Painters Croft

Tastefully presented modern intermediate situated in a popular development in Cosely. Benefiting from living room, kitchen-diner, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, parking to front, central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£104,950**



DUDLEY, Douglas Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated in an idyllic location in Dudley opposite Buffery Park, this immaculately presented ground floor maisonette benefits from central heating & double glazing. Ideal for the first time buyer or a purchaser looking to downsize this TWO BEDROOM home also boasts; well-appointed living room, refitted kitchen and bathroom, landscaped and private rear garden, driveway to front with parking for multiple vehicles. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£89,950**



LOWER GORNAL, Sandstone Close

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed first floor flat presented in exemplary order throughout. Tremendous accommodation includes entrance hallway with staircase up to a superb lounge with feature 'marble' effect over mantle, store, inner hallway, reapointed shower room (former bathroom) with contemporary white suite (chrome detailing), store, principle bedroom with a fine of fitted units, refitted/refitted kitchen with various appliances. GARAGE. EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of **£72,000**



WOODSETTON, Regent Street

EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PRESENTED - Meticulously maintained gas centrally heated UPVC double or single glazed first floor flat in 'quiet backwater'. Tremendously enhanced by present vendors the accommodation provides; hall (incorporating caravan style seating which will convert into a temporary double bed), lounge (with living flame feature gas fire), refitted kitchen, double bedroom (with two double wardrobes), refitted shower room (former bathroom). Shared grounds. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of **£70,000**

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NETHERTON
Halesowen Road



A two bedroom first floor flat, large living room, two double bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom with shower over bath. Parking available at rear of property. Housing benefits considered with a guarantor. NO Pets. Available to view now. EPC G

£395 PCM & Fees

Bilston
Wesley Street



A modern one bedroom apartment in popular location. Open plan lounge and fitted kitchen to include integrated oven & hob. Bedroom with en suite includes bath & walk in shower. Secure electric gated entrance with allocated parking space. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS Available to view. EPC C.

£440 PCM & Fees

STOURBRIDGE
Murcroft Road



A first floor, two bed flat, having central heating, double glazing, lounge, kitchen and bathroom with shower. Possible parking, yard to front, unfurnished, available now. DSS considered with a home owner guarantor. EPC D

£450 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Windmill End



A two bedroom ground floor apartment with separate entrance and access to rear courtyard. Accommodation comprises of open plan lounge and kitchen area. Bathroom with shower over bath and w/c. Gas central heating. Unfurnished, available to view now. EPC C

£450 PCM & Fees

TIPTON
Castle Road



Furnished Professional house share available in this beautifully newly converted house. Being finished to a high standard. All inclusive of bills. The house consists of 5 house share rooms with communal kitchen, laundry area and bathroom. We have 2 rooms available with shower en-suites. There is a communal rear garden and off road parking. Double room With En-suite facility Communal kitchen, laundry room & house bathroom - £445 (Inclusive of all bills) Double room with Communal kitchen, laundry room & house bathroom (inclusive of all bills) £395pcm

£395 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Hermit Street



A first floor two bed maisonette in a popular location. Having a fitted kitchen, lounge, two double bedrooms and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Gas central heating, double glazing, Secure entry, gardens to rear. Available long term. Unfurnished. EPC C.

£450 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Wolverhampton St



A brand new one bedroom first floor flat conveniently located in the town centre. With a brand new open plan kitchen/diner with lounge area. Completed to a high standard, with communal area. Brand new bathroom with shower over bath. Laminated flooring throughout. Viewings are recommended to appreciate this spacious apartment. Central heating and Secondary glazing. Further Apartments Available EPC C No Pets. Unfurnished, available now for long term let.

£480 PCM & Fees

TIPTON
Carnegie Avenue



A two bedroom semi detached property. Good location within walking distance to Dudley Port Train Station. Entrance porch which leads to open living room. Fitted kitchen. Upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms and bathroom with toilet. Garden to rear. Off street parking. Available to view now. EPC C

£500 PCM & Fees

Sedgley
Turl's Street



A very pleasant two bed mid terrace property with a modern lounge with an open tread staircase leading to the first floor. En-suite shower to the master bedroom with one further bedroom and a nicely appointed house bathroom. Kitchen with dining area with corner open flame gas fire. Tidy rear garden. No DSS. Pets considered. EPC D

£520 PCM & Fees

Dudley
Edward Street



A two bedroom terraced house split over three floors. With two reception rooms, fitted dining kitchen and family bathroom. Central heating & double glazing. With rear garden. Located close to Dudley Town Centre. No Dss Accepted. EPC D.

£550 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Corser Street



A three bedroom detached home. Having a driveway (with room for two cars) leading to the entrance hallway, a large lounge and fitted kitchen with separate dining area. Stairs lead to the first floor landing, having three good sized double bedrooms and house bathroom, with separate WC. Garden to rear with brick built shed. NO DSS. EPC - D

£695 PCM & Fees

BILSTON
Woodcross Street



A three bedroom terrace house in popular location. Having entrance porch leading to good size lounge, fitted kitchen/diner. Conservatory. White bathroom suite with bath and shower over. Three good size bedrooms. Enclosed garden to rear. Available to view now. No DSS, no pets. EPC C

£565 PCM & Fees

CRADLEY HEATH
High hadn Road



A beautifully presented two bedroom bungalow with stunning outside views in a quiet location. Have good size lounge with patio doors leading out to a patio area. Beautifully fitted kitchen. Two bedrooms and ground floor bathroom. No DSS. No pets. Available now. Viewing highly recommended. EPC C.

£675 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Winscar Croft



A pleasant, two bed semi detached house in a cul de sac location with off road parking. Having double glazing, central heating, a good sized lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms and a bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Unfurnished, available now for long term. No DSS, no pets. EPC D.

£575 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Spring Parklands



A three bedroom detached house. The property offers a driveway for off road parking. Large lounge/diner and kitchen. Upstairs has three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom. With a low maintenance, enclosed rear garden and a garage near to the property. EPC D

£650 PCM & Fees

Stourbridge
Norton Road



A beautifully presented four bedroom, semi detached home with plenty of character. The property is within easy reach of Oldswinford village as well as the centre of Stourbridge. Hallway with understairs cloak cupboard, leading to lounge. Open plan dining kitchen and utility to the rear housing the central heating boiler and plumbing for white goods. Three good sized bedrooms and bathroom/WC with white suite. On the second floor there is a fourth bedroom with WC/shower room off. Pleasant rear garden. Unfurnished, EPC E

£845 PCM & Fees

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**TIVIDALE
Huskinson Close**




A fabulous detached house set in a quiet cul-de-sac location. Being tucked away in a corner position this delightful home must be viewed to appreciate what it has on offer. Having a newly fitted kitchen, utility room, lounge and stairs WC. Having three bedrooms on the first floor with family bathroom and en-suite to master bedroom. Benefitting from a garage and off road parking for two vehicles. Rear garden.

£215,000

**BRIERLEY HILL
Norwood Road**



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom end terrace property. Close to Merry Hill, And close to local transport links. This Two bedroom property offers a good sized lounge, Kitchen Diner with lobby with a nice walk way with a door leading to the side court Yard and door to the house bathroom. Two good sized bedrooms, off road parking and a low maintenance rear garden having a courtyard at the side of the property leading to a gated shared access. Then to a rear enclose lawn area. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC E

£74,950

**DUDLEY
Hackett Drive**



A fabulous coach house style apartment offering two bedroom and open plan living space. This lovely home simply must be viewed to appreciate what it has to offer. Being situated within a sought after modern estate in Dudley Borough. This coach house benefits from an attractive fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, open plan lounge and dining area. Leading off to two bedrooms and bathroom. Outside benefits from two storage cupboards and allocated parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Freehold. EPC - B

£104,995


**MILKING BANK
Cowley Drive,**




We are pleased to offer this four bedroom detached house in a popular location on the 'Milking bank' estate. Set in a cul-de-sac the property offers a large driveway to the front. Large front reception room fitted kitchen/diner. Utility room and downstairs WC/shower room, with a further door to the second reception room. Four good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC. The rear garden is a low maintenance paved area. Having central heating and double glazing, no upward chain. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC C

£189,950

**DUDLEY
Osprey Drive**



●● Investment Opportunity ●● Trinity Property would like to offer for sale this ONE bedroom first floor flat, situated on the popular Russells hall Estate, Dudley. With entrance hall, kitchen, lounge bedroom and bathroom. Being accessed through a communal hallway. For further enquiries or to book a viewing, please contact the office on: 01384 213395 EPC - E

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**TIPTON,
Nay Court, Bradley Street**



IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
● A pleasant, one bedroom first floor apartment in a very convenient location, just off the Birmingham New road. Off road parking and communal gardens, secure entry. Having UPC double glazing and electric heating, the apartment has a lovely lounge, a fitted kitchen and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. No upward chain, highly recommended for viewing. EPC D Offers In Excess Of:

£55,000



**TIPTON
Thunderbolt Way**



A modern, 2nd floor one bed apartment with double glazing and central heating, secure entryphone access, having a good-sized lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen with integral oven and hob, double bedroom with built-in mirrored wardrobes and house bathroom/WC with electric shower over the bath. Allocated off road parking with free permit. Leasehold, priced to sell - viewing recommended. EPC TBC

£75,000

**GORNAL, DUDLEY
Brookdale**

●●● Must be Viewed ●●● A very well presented three bed semi-detached property, having a long driveway to the front of the property with plenty of off road parking, leading to the entrance hall, which has stairs to the first floor landing and doors to: lounge/diner, kitchen, with a door to the rear lobby with a downstairs WC off. The first floor landing has doors to three good sized bedrooms and house bathroom. Having double glazing and central heating. To the rear there is patio area and terraced garden with access to the front via a side gate. FREEHOLD. EPC TBC

£135,000

**DUDLEY
The Belfer**



A unique opportunity to purchase a superb bungalow close to Dudley Town Centre. Having a lounge, Fitted kitchen with appliances, re-fitted shower room, two double bedrooms, lean-to, attic with ladders and a front garden with a retaining wall. Parking space for two vehicles and gated access leading to a rear yard with substantial size and versatile use. Located in a cul-de-sac, viewing this property is a must! EPC-G

£130,000

**TIPTON
Monins Avenue**




A delightful one bedroom apartment situated on the popular Tivendale keys estate. Being on the third floor, this home benefits from fabulous views. Having good size lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom. Allocated parking. Viewings are recommended to appreciate what this lovely apartment has to offer. Leasehold. EPC - TBC. OFFERS IN EXCESS OF:

Offers In Excess Of: £65,000

**CRADLEY HEATH
Mossvale Close**



A stylish & modern 'coach house' style first floor apartment with large hallway with wide staircase to the first floor, spacious lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms (one double and one single, fitted kitchen with integral oven and electric hob above, fridge and freezer, luxury bathroom/WC with shower over the bath, storage/closet heating throughout. Carpet with storage cupboard on ground floor. Alarm System.

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**DUDLEY
Corser Street**




We are pleased to offer this Three bedroom detached home benefiting from no upward chain, having a driveway (with room for two cars) leading to the entrance hallway, a large lounge and fitted kitchen with separate dining area. Stairs lead to the first floor landing, having three good sized double bedrooms and house bathroom, with separate WC. The rear outside has patio area, lawn with various shrubs and borders with brick built shed. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC - D.

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- EPC RATING D



22 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET £175,000

- DUDLEY
- Commercial premises with A3/A5 use
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- Prominent position close to town centre
- Accommodation on three floors
- EPC RATING D

139 SEDGLEY ROAD £170,000

- WOODSETTON
- Three bedroom detached house
- In need of updating works
- Excellent opportunity for purchaser
- Generous sized plot
- EPC RATING F



LAND AT TIVDALE STREET/DUDLEY PORT O/A £210,000

- TIPTON
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- Outline planning consent
- Planning App No: DC/14/57543
- Convenient location



42 WALLOWS WOOD, LOWER GORNAL £185,000

- Well maintained three bedroom semi detached house
- Occupying a pleasant & popular cul de sac location
- Private south west facing rear garden with open views to fields
- Deceptive accommodation with utility room and rear conservatory
- EPC RATING D



58 RUITON STREET O/A £139,950

- GORNAL
- End terraced residence
- Two double bedrooms
- Extended accommodation
- Breakfast kitchen, dining conservatory
- EPC RATING C

LAND FRONTING FIRS STREET £95,000

- DUDLEY
- Development Site
- Subject to Local Authority consent
- Rectangular area of land
- Approximately 0.134 acres
- SEDGLEY OFFICE



47 CEDAR AVENUE, COSELEY O/A £169,960

- Traditional style semi detached house
- Three bedrooms, separate lounge & dining room
- Enlarged & re-fitted kitchen, conservatory
- Private rear garden
- EPC RATING C



16 ROWAN ROAD, SEDGLEY £129,950

- Well maintained & improved two bedroom semi detached house
- Separate lounge & dining room, ground floor w.c.
- Kitchen with utility room, re-fitted fully tiled bathroom
- Occupying a pleasant and convenient location with attractive rear garden
- EPC RATING D



46 BHYLLS LANE £775pcm

- WOLVERHAMPTON
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extensively renovated and improved
- Good sized rear garden
- EPC RATING C



107 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD £650pcm

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- Larger than average rear garden
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Bigger, better than ever and talented

By James Parker

On the face of it, the concept of a Sport Utility Vehicle is a bit farcical. Which sport are you engaging in at the helm of, say, a Land Rover Discovery Sport? If the remit is to get you to the sport, then surely a bus or train would also warrant the sports tag. There really is nothing sporty about these vehicles.

Audi popularised this genre with its Allroad models, Volvo followed with its XC70 but Subaru had them both licked in selling us all-wheel drive estates with just enough off-road ability to get most of us to where we needed to go. Skoda followed suit with its Octavia Scout models but they never really gained much traction with the car buying public. The third generation Octavia is a far more substantial proposition than its predecessors and this time, the Scout version might well snag some serious orders.

The basics are pretty straightforward. For this sort of car, you really want an estate bodysell, a bit of extra ride height, a brawny diesel engine and the obligatory all-wheel drive mechanicals. Skoda duly delivers, with the engine choice extending to either a 2.0 TDI 150PS with a six-speed manual gearbox or a 2.0 TDI 184PS featuring a six-speed DSG twin-clutch as standard.

The fifth-generation Haldex clutch transmission more accurately distributes torque between the front and rear axles. The ECU monitors your driving (steering angle, throttle position and how heavily you're braking) and delivers what it feels is the correct split of torque to each axle. As soon as a front wheel starts spinning, the clutch is engaged, sending torque to the rear tyres. An electronically locking differential on both axles



Even the entry-level Scout gets alloy wheels



There's a redesigned rear end with black body cladding

helps too, drive being distributed evenly from side to side for optimum grip.

The Scout certainly looks the part, with a distinctive front end that features a silver skid plate and fog lights assembly. There's also a redesigned rear end, with black body cladding added to help keep scuffs off the paintwork while off-roading.

The ride height has been jacked up by a further 33mm, and with a total ride height of 171mm, the Scout has even more ground

clearance than many so-called SUVs such as the Audi Q3.

Rear seat space is generous and so is the amount of room in the back with the 610-litres of space you get in the boot when all the seats are in place. Prices start at just over £25,000, which nets you the 150PS version. You'll need to fork out around £28,000 for the 184PS model with the DSG gearbox, but that's still quite ridiculously good value for money. After all, you can spend well over £27,000 on a manual 1.6-litre diesel Honda Civic supermini.

Ask yourself which is offering you more car and more capability for your money. The Scout's more direct rivals can't really touch this proposition, the base 140PS Passat Alltrack knocking on the door of £30,000 while the Vauxhall Insignia Country Tourer really only comes into contention if you can negotiate a massive discount off the asking price to offset its poorer residuals.

Even the entry-level Scout gets alloy wheels, an eight speaker stereo with a digital radio and Bluetooth compatibility, roof rails, leather

trim for the reach and rake adjustable steering wheel, climate control and a touchscreen infotainment controller. Safety gear includes stability control, hill hold, automatic post collision braking, plus front, side, knee and curtain airbags.

Ascend up the range and you can start fitting features like the DSG twin-clutch gearbox, Alcantara and leather trim, satellite navigation, cruise control, intelligent light assistant, bigger alloys and a remote rear seat fold down facility.

SKODA OCTAVIA SCOUT



The Scout looks the part, with a distinctive front end that features a silver skid plate and fog lights assembly

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Finance example: 09/08 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design, Cash Price £4495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £99.60 (£22.98 per week) Total amount payable £6276.00 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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MOTORING

Fiat Professional continues to dominate motorhome sales

Fiat Professional has continued to build on its success in the fast-growing motorhome market with the news that two out of every three motorhomes sold in Europe are now based on its sixth-generation Ducato.

The extent of the manufacturer's grip on the motorhome sector was revealed at this week's Motorhome & Caravan Show at the NEC, where Fiat commercial-based conversions featured heavily in the model line-ups showcased by the industry's leading manufacturers.

Impressive

From the amount of Ducato-based motorhomes on display, the latest sixth-generation version takes a lot of credit for Fiat Professional's impressive performance and the popularity of its products as the basis for recreational vehicles.

Unlike many of its rivals, the Ducato has been specifically designed from the chassis up to be the perfect base vehicle for motorhomes, Fiat Professional working closely with motorhome manufacturers to make the conversion process as smooth as possible.

Fiat Professional has also been mindful of the end user too, ensuring that its Ducato has the specification and driveability that modern-day motorhome users expect.



The Ducato has been specifically designed from the chassis up to be the perfect base vehicle for motorhomes

Euro 6-compliant MultiJet2 engines – spanning outputs of 115 to 180 bhp – power the range and there is a choice of chassis lengths and wheelbases.

In fact, Fiat Professional states that there are a mind-boggling 600 specific motorhome versions to choose from by combining different bodies, capacities and engines.

To maintain its class-leading position and to further enhance its

customers' motorhome experiences, Fiat Professional also has plans to evolve its suite of customer care and support initiatives.

These new services will join the facilities that the manufacturer already offers to its motorhome customers, including 24/7 roadside assistance, a dedicated website and even a free mobile phone app – Fiat Ducato Camper Mobile – that has already had more than 80,000 downloads to date.

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Mitsubishi ASX new 'dynamic shield' i.d.

MITSUBISHI ASX REVISED FOR 2017



The upper grille connects with the headlamps

By James Parker

Mitsubishi's revised ASX, sports another interpretation of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation's (MMC) new "Dynamic Shield" visual identity.

With over 1,100,000 units produced since its launch in 2010, ASX has proved to be a global success for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC), as well as a timely development against the ever growing crowd of C-Segment SUV market.

In Europe, it is the second global market with 237,564 units sold since launch, where it remains Mitsubishi Motors' number two seller behind Outlander.

Building on this solid foundation, Mitsubishi Motors continues to improve on this success with steady freshening to keep up with market trends and customers' demand as well as the Brand's own evolution.

Visual Identity

For a smooth transition towards the next generation of Mitsubishi Motors vehicles, the 2017 ASX boasts Mitsubishi's "Dynamic Shield" – MMC's new visual identity.

Previewed with the 2014 Outlander PHEV Concept-S show car, Dynamic Shield is meant to symbolise the functionality and reassuring safety inherent to Mitsubishi Motors' SUVs, with bold chromed streaks on either side of the grille shielding the Three-Diamond mark to create a 3D suggestion of motion.

In the case of ASX, the front bumper was altered to accommodate the chrome streaks while the central section was blacked-out to mimic New Outlander or eX-Concept. Above, the upper grille is now made of thin black horizontal slats and connects with the headlamps for an integrated look.

This new front face pays respect to both MMC's past and "Form follows Function" philosophy.

It is inherited from the bumper side protection seen historically with Shogun, providing a unique feeling of protection for the people and the car itself.

In that sense, this new front face design expresses design heritage and evolution from that heritage. In addition to this new front face, the European specifications 2017 ASX will also feature a shark fin antenna, a more supportive rear seat padding as well as a new seat material.

These cosmetic changes come on top of the most recent improvements brought to ASX for Europe, such as:

- New 1.6 Turbo Diesel 114 ps engine (w/ Auto Stop & Go, 6 M/T, either 2WD or 4WD)
- Extended service intervals
- New features including 18" alloy wheels, auto-dimming rear view mirror



The new front face pays respect to both MMC's past and 'Form follows Function' philosophy



New ASX will feature a shark fin antenna

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Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced,
all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced.
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Grinsells Skip Hire.
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4 Pets & Animals

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whist Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY AFRICAN Grey Parrot, 17 weeks old, lovely big bird, very steady. £500.
01384 374952.

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01562 824350.

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TWO ALBINO and one Sandy coloured female ferrets, £5 each. 07914 639937.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

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6 Property

accommodation to let

A 2 BED FLAT Fallings Park. 1 bed flat Chapel Ash to Let. DSS ok. 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A MODERN 1 bed flat, Moseley Parklands Estate. Call for details 07710 290956.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

HIGH QUALITY Furnished 1 bed flat, Telford area. No DSS 07976263435 / 01902 700 028.

SMALL SELF contained flat, full private facilities, suit mature single person, Gornal area. Call Nathan for details 07715 603557.

SMART ROOMS in shared house, Netherton, from £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07870 717139 or 07840 116130.

mobile homes

MUST BE SEEN
TINGDENE
FULLY RESIDENTIAL
50 X 20 NEW DOUBLE UNIT
PARK HOME

Two bedrooms. One ensuite.

Private gardens and parking.

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We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes
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FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
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Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
MARION PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
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ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
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LOCAL COMPANY
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"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
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01902 319 191 Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Steelco UK Ltd are one of the UK's leading Steel Stockholders and Processors and we are Looking to expand our sales team with the introduction of one or maybe two



INSIDE SALES PERSONNEL

Responsibilities
• Source new sales opportunities through inbound lead follow-up and outbound cold calls and emails
• Maintaining and developing relationships with existing clients to gain repeat business
• Order raising and processing
• Reactivating dormant accounts
Requirements
• Proven inside sales experience
• Strong phone presence and experience dialling dozens of calls per day
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills
• Successful experience of cold calling
• Display strong customer focus and a commitment to delivering excellent customer service
• Be resourceful, proactive and enthusiastic
• Have strong attention to detail and a high degree of accuracy
Hours: Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 5.00pm Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm
Job Type - Full Time
Job Location - Dudley DY2

Required Education - Secondary Education
The successful candidate would essentially have previous Telephone Sales experience and although preferred does not have to be within the steel industry.
Please send CV to SteelcoUKLtd@steelco.uk,
Narrowboat Way, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 0XQ
or email details to: paul.tranter@steelco.uk
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Required for Commercial Aluminium Door, Curtain Wall and Window Manufacturing Company based in Dudley:
MGS
Multi Glazing Systems Ltd
EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATOR
Previous experience of Sage would be advantageous, along with the ability to liaise with suppliers, manage and organise workloads for Engineers and complete general office duties.
Excellent working conditions and rates of pay
Send CV to pdryan@mgsuk.com, or call 01384 293141 and request an application form.
www.mgsuk.com.

Dudley CVS is seeking to appoint three Voluntary Sector Link Support Workers (37 hrs p.w) Salary: £19,939
We are looking for individuals that are passionate about helping people, are great at building relationships, have empathy and are able to put people at ease. The roles will help ensure people are supported effectively to access non-medical support services and record outcomes being achieved. You will provide support to a Locality Link Officer based in a locality in Dudley borough.
Duration of post: September 2017. Possible extension subject to funding.
Closing date: 5pm, Monday 7th November 2016
Interview date: Tuesday 15th November 2016
For application form and job description, please contact Dudley CVS, 7 Albion Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3EE. Tel: 01384 573381.
Email: daley@dudleycvcs.org.uk or download an application pack from www.dudleycvcs.org.uk
Dudley CVS is an equal opportunities employer
Registered Charity No: 517766 Incorporated under the 1985 Companies Act No.19985105.

Sight Concern Worcestershire is the county charity supporting blind and partially sighted people to lead independent and fulfilling lives.
Advice and Support Officer, Wyre Forest - 18 hours per week Salary: £8.63 per hour / £8,075.34 per annum
You will provide information, advice and support to people affected by sight loss to assist them to lead independent lives. You will need to be proactive with a positive attitude and a passion for enabling people to reach their full potential. You must have access to your own transport.
Interviews are expected to take place on Monday 21st November 2016
To download our recruitment pack, please go to www.sightconcern.co.uk/about-us/vacancies
For further information, please contact us on 01905 723245.
Please email completed application packs to info@sightconcern.co.uk
Closing date: 9am Monday 14th November 2016

SUNRISE Medical
Sunrise Medical is a world leader in the development, design, manufacture and distribution of manual and powered wheelchairs, mobility scooters and both standard and customised seating and positioning systems.
We are currently seeking a SALES ORDER PROCESSING ADMINISTRATOR to join our busy Customer Service team.
The candidate will be responsible for processing highly complex prescription orders and will provide account management support to potential, existing and new customers. Two years' experience in an administrative/order processing role is essential. This is a full time permanent position.
Job specification, salary and package available upon application.
Please send your Full CV to:
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Thorns Road, Brierley Hill West Midlands, DY5 2LD
Gemma.Stackhouse@sunmed.co.uk

MULTI GLAZING SYSTEMS LTD
Required for Commercial Aluminium Door, Curtain Wall and Window Manufacturing Company based in Dudley: www.mgsuk.com.
MGS
Multi Glazing Systems Ltd
SKILLED ESTIMATOR
Industry experience of quotation preparation for door and window projects, liaising with customers and the ability to read drawings is essential. Knowledge of Logikal, V6 or similar Industry estimating software, CAD and Excel would be an advantage.
SKILLED DOOR & WINDOW FABRICATOR
Experience in aluminium door or window fabricating is essential, along with the ability to work from drawings/cutting sheets. Excellent working conditions and rates of pay
Send CV to pdryan@mgsuk.com, or call 01384 293141 and request an application form.

Accounts Administrator / Sales Order Processor

Salary based on experience

Permanent
Kingswinford, Dudley.

Full time, temp - perm
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You will be responsible for processing and inputting all sales orders, producing all dispatch paperwork for sales orders along with O&M manuals, liaising with the warehouse and suppliers to ensure orders are received in the allotted time, answering telephone calls and any other administrative duties that are required.

The successful candidate will have good organisational skills and be a confident user of Sage 50 and Excel. You will be an enthusiastic team player who is able to work independently or as part of a team. High attention to detail is required for this role as well as strong communication skills.
If you feel you have the right skill set please forward your CV for the attention of Kristin Jones to email:kristin.jones@franciscatering.com.

IMMACULATE

FORD FIESTA ZETEC

64 Reg, 5-door, ecoboost, one previous owner, 15,000 miles, showroom condition, must sell.
£5,900
07495 087227.



FORD FOCUS ZS

2013, 55,000 miles, black, Eco-boost, bluetooth, usb, aux, voice command, MoT, £30 road tax, excellent condition!!

£7,500 ono.

07889 473570.

7 SEATER

FORD GALAXY GHIA LUXURY

2004, 1.9 TDCi, metallic blue, full leather, top spec plus more, MoT, service history, CD, new tyres, clutch, dual-mass fly-wheel, cam belt and service ready to go. Not usual rubbish. Private car.

£3,195 o.n.o.

07971 284856/01746 861841.



KIA CARENS 7SEATER

2009, 74,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, FSH, alarm, MoT, central locking, PAS, alloys, CD, roof bars

£2,500 ono

01902 565425.

LUXURY MOTOR

LEXUS 450 H Hybrid

56, blue, fully loaded. 104,000 miles. One private owner.

Service history.

£3,950 ono.

07940 771127.

Small part ex taken

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES SL350

AUTOMATIC

CONVERTIBLE

54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys, Absolutely pristine.

£9,999.

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AUTOMATIC

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£9,999.

07836 204450.

deolsuk@hotmail.co.uk



MINI COOPER 1.6D

2008 (58), 62k miles, FSH, lady owners, blue, diesel, full electrics, leather, 2 keys, MoT, £20 road tax, chilli and sport pack. 60+ mpg, 4 new goodyear tyres

£4,650 ono.

07447 721169.

NISSAN NOTE

1.6 ACENTA

5 door, lady driver. Economical, reliable, 100,000 miles.

£1,495.

01902 747180.

07774 898966.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
2006, 59,000 Miles, black 5door, electric windows, electric mirrors, long MoT, pas, Alloys, £1,599 07879 403302.

THIS COULD BE YOURS

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

2012, silver, SRI, 87,000 miles, 2 litre diesel, hatchback.

Excellent condition.

£6,995.

01902 895481.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.



BMW 325Ti SPORT

2002 98,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, sports, £1,495.

07856 783322.

BARGAIN

ESCORT 75 DIESEL VAN

1998, immaculate, MoT 10 months,

All good.

£450.

07833 645688.

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 2003, 47k, Silver, 5door, electric windows, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, Alloys, spots, excellent condition. £995 ono 07768 261696



MINI ONE

2002, 63,307 miles. Silver. MoT Aug 2017.

E.W. E.M.

£1,450 ono

07538 750391.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

NISSAN MICRA

3dr, 2005.

1 lady owner from new.

low mileage, 47,000 miles.

£1,250 ovno.

07980 165680.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

NISSAN MICRA S

2002

Silver, MoT August 2017, low miles, excellent condition,

SOLD.



NISSAN MICRA

X reg (2000), 1.0L engine, 57,000 miles, red, 5 door, MoT up until August 2017, two owners, well looked after.

£450 ono.

07557 370800.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 106

X reg

Low mileage

MoT February 2017

Great condition.

£200.

0121 5503899.

BARGAIN

PEUGEOT 206

X Reg., 2001 model.

Grey.

Excellent runner, MoT.

New cat, new clutch.

47,192 miles.

£600 o.n.o.

01384 457219

or

07478 478831

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO 1.2RT

PAS.

Long MoT.

Sunroof.

S Reg.

New shape.

Needs slight attention.

£145.

07964 503086.

CONVERTIBLE

SAAB 900SE CONVERTIBLE

1997, 146,669 miles,

excellent condition,

garaged.

£600

07982 605805.



SKODA OCTAVIA

AMBIENTE

2004, 86,582 miles, grey, 1 owner, fish, MoT May 2017, cruise control, alloys, CD changer, cambelt/water pump May 2016.

£800 ono.

07885 056638.



VAUXHALL AGILA

EXPRESSION

2005, 999cc, five door, blue, MoT, 51,000, PAS, lovely condition,

£895 ono.

07523 729551.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB

1.6, 03 reg, 35,314 miles.

MoT till October 2017, red.

Good condition.

£1,100.

01384 74866.

FOR A QUICK SALE

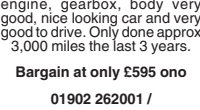
VAUXHALL CORSA SRI

5 door hatchback 1800cc, petrol, 2003, black, MoT till March 2017, alloy wheels, alarmed, high mileage but engine, gearbox, body very good, nice looking car and very good to drive. Only done approx 3,000 miles the last 3 years.

Bargain at only £595 ono

01902 262001 /

07928 679949.



VAUXHALL OMEGA ELITE

3.0V6 auto, 2001, 75,000 miles, blue metallic, ivory leather, fish, new cambelt and water pump, towbar, MoT March, excellent condition

£995 ono.

07971 269191.



VW GOLF 1.4 16V

2001, 5dr in silver, 76,000 miles, FSH, new cam belt, new coil overs, new brakes, Audi TT alloys, 11 months MoT.

£1,300 ovno.

07814 336980 or

01902 306544.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. 5 L Less any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT 2013, swb, low roof, T280, 100PSi, white, 102K, Ford fsh, £6,400. 07502 446438.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting From £5
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
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www.driveallseasons.co.uk



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01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 880058 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £18 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

motorbikes

PEUGEOT TWEET

125 RS SCOOTER

White, November 2012, 5,400 miles, MoT November 2017, excellent condition.

£950.

Topbox, security chain included, 01384 274014.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

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If your heart is closest to adventure, take small steps with us holding your hand and don't give up until you find that incredible partner to change your world.
Call 0121 520 8715 for more details

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Early 50's to mid 60's, who is caring, honest and respectable, no ties, must be willing to travel, for Friendship maybe more. Genuine replies only, previous responders need not write again thank you.

Photo appreciated, returned. **Box Number P20589, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

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01902 317878



Classified Ads

servicing

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QUICK SHIFT
07932442438 ;
01384259016



spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & BAR package deals from £149.95. Cheapast in Midlands. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tetterhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg** on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN BANKRUPTCY
DUDLEY COUNTY COURT
ELIZABETH DAVIES
NO 171 of 2005 RE: CURTIA
Of 197 Central Drive, Bilston, West Midlands WV14 8JE. Unemployed. D.O.B: 11 August 1960

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed. I intend to pay within four months from 24th November 2016 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 0.06 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 24th November 2016 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LATAD, West Wing, Ground Floor, Brunel, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4AF, telephone 01634 894 7000 to supply a form.

Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

Box Number P20590, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Box Number P20587, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Box Number P20587, Express and Star, Queen



Mark and Joe Feeham, and Peter Woodfield, front, from left, head up the London Wolves Supporters' Club



London Wolves members celebrate the 50th anniversary with ex-players Mike Bailey and Terry Wharton on Saturday

Die-hard fans' capital commitment

SPORT MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

EVEN for a group that's 50 years old, this lot have got some outlandish tales.

One of their members has missed only one home game in 40 years, they used to run out of the players' tunnel at Molineux to supporters chanting their name, and they've travelled to matches with players, millionaires and a famous pop star.

Welcome to London Wolves.

The club's oldest supporters' club – and one of the oldest of its kind in the country – is turning 50.

They've experienced dizzying highs and endured devastating lows over the past five decades – and that's before you even get started on the football.

It all began in a very different era. Stuart Earl, who was there from day one and is the club's chairman, takes up the story: "Me and Dave (Slape, current secretary) met on the 9.15 out of Paddington. We saw each other every week and just thought there had to be a cheaper way of doing it, so we set about organising coach travel and it took off from there."

Switch

Dave added: "I was on the first trip. Two weeks earlier we met Jack Howley, the secretary, with about 12 people saying we wanted to form a club. The first trip was Plymouth (October 22, 1966, a 2-1 home win)."

Football worked very differently back then. London Wolves would be let in to Molineux games for free, with chairman John Ireland believing fans who travelled that far shouldn't have to pay.

They would board a coach from Victoria station, but would switch to train travel after a couple of years, and have a corner of the North Bank allocated to them. Stuart added: "We



Club legend Steve Bull receives a Player of the Year award from London Wolves back in 1986

used to come out of the players' tunnel and the North Bank would chant 'London Wolves' and point at us! It was quite embarrassing."

The club's numbers soon grew. At its peak, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, they had almost 400 members, with the 1981 FA Cup semi-final against Spurs at Hillsborough attracted a record booking of 108 fans. Just a few years later, with Wolves' rapid decline in full flow, things were very different.

Travel secretary Peter Woodfield has been with the club since its formation and still kept attending event in the dark days of the 1980s.

Yes, he even went to all three Chorley FA Cup games. The Magpies beat Wolves 3-0 in a second FA Cup first round replay at Bolton's Burnden Park. "In the Bhatti era you had to be a bit more dedicated!" he said.

"The Third Division, when we were still on our way down, it was a real effort to go to those games."

Mark Feeham joined in 1976, aged 12, after spotting an advert in a Millwall programme.

"You hear people complain today about bad games, but you really had to be a die-hard in the 1980s," he said. "You didn't even know if

they would put a team out some days. We had the conversations about what we'd do if the worst happened and Wolves no longer existed." But London Wolves, like the club, survived – and thrived. Sir Jack Hayward used to travel with them for midweek games (even taking part in Dave's 'guess the score' competition), as did a host of former players.

Dexys Midnight Runners singer Kevin Rowland is a former member, as is BBC presenter Jacqui Oatley.

John Richards is the club's honorary president and the likes of Carl Ikeme, David Ed-

"We used to come out of the players' tunnel and the North Bank would chant 'London Wolves' and point at us! It was quite embarrassing."

wards and Karl Henry have travelled back to London with them in recent years.

That's not to say that travelling from London to every game hasn't been without its pitfalls.

There have been several mishaps, delays and breakdowns over the years, even as recently as last season when horrendous motorway traffic forced the group, who travelled to that particular game by coach, to abandon in Sheffield and watch a match in a pub.

Outskirts

Peter, who sorts out the club's bookings and match tickets, added: "There was one at Huddersfield in the 1960s the coach broke down just on the outskirts of Huddersfield and we ended up pushing it up a hill!"

"I'll never forget that. We missed the first 25 minutes of that one," he added.

The 50th anniversary year was marked in style with a golden anniversary dinner at Charlton's ground, The Valley, in July, attended by a host of ex-players and then-boss Kenny Jackett.

A special reception will be held in Molineux's WV1 bar on the day of the Leeds game on Saturday, marking 50 years to the day since that first ever trip.

"I think the reason we all enjoy it so much is the social side of it and the camaraderie," Mark said. "We have a lot of away fans travelling with us too. Brentford brought a bag of Chinese fortune cookies with them the other week to share out. Everyone knows everyone and we're all friends."

Stuart added: "My mother thought I'd grow out of it, but 50 years later I'm still here."

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD

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Fireworks on agenda as boxing back

PROFESSIONAL boxing returns to The Venue in Dudley on Friday, November 4 with fireworks expected on the evening before Bonfire Night.

A seven-bout card will welcome the fighters back to the High Street building with a bang.

Netherton's Les Byfield has home advantage on the PJ Promotions show bill. The 29-year-old is looking for his sixth win in his seventh fight.

Returning to the ring is Tipton's Ricky Summers, who will be back in action after exactly seven months out of the ring. His last bout came under the lights at The Venue, outpointing gatekeeper Carl Wild in a coming-of-age fight to claim a British Challenge title.

The light heavyweight, 29, retains a flawless record of 11 straight victories, with four inside-the-distance and could soon be knocking on the door for national honours again.

Redditch's Andrew Robinson will be looking to get back to winning ways, after a narrow defeat to Sam Sheedy in a British middleweight title eliminator.

Four other prospects also feature on the bill including Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny. The left-handed middleweight, 25, has somehow recorded two draws in a row against Simone Lucas and Christian Hoskin-Gomez, but remains unbeaten after five outings.

There's a PJ Promotions bow for Telford's Tony Jones, 25, who boxes in the Black Country for the first time in his seventh pro affair. Another new face to PJ Promotions' events is busy welterweight CJ Challenger, from Leicester.

Completing the line-up is Bartley Green's Kane Baker, who competes in his second pro bout at super lightweight.

Tickets, at £35 and £50 ringside, are available from promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

Glassboys pay the penalty as chance is saved at death

Blyth Spartans 2 Stourbridge 1
STOURBRIDGE were denied an Evo-Stik Premier point when a penalty from Luke Benbow was saved – the last action of the match.

Nathan Buddle gave Blyth the lead just before the half-hour mark when he leapt to meet Stephen Turnbull's corner and put his header past Matt Gould in the Stourbridge goal.

The hosts increased their lead when Robbie Dale unleashed what looked a speculative strike at goal which Gould left, believing it was going for wide, only for it to fly in.

On 52 minutes Stourbridge got a goal back through Benbow who picked the ball up on the left and unleashed a shot from 20 yards which flew across a diving McHugh and into the top corner.

Four minutes into injury time Blyth substitute Michael Richardson handled in the area but McHugh blocked Benbow's shot with his legs.

Stourbridge slipped out of the Birmingham Senior Cup on Monday night. Stratford grabbed the only goal on 60 minutes through Will Grocutt.

DK miss out in bonus in closing stages

Worcester Wanderers 20 DK 12

DK played Worcester Wanderers in the first of two consecutive away games. They travel to Herford next week after losing 20-12 at Westons.

The first half hour saw the game fluctuate. Both teams scored well constructed team tries and they were both converted to make it 7-7. The Wanderers try came after a period of pressure when the DK defence was stretched by good phase play and left wing Sam Harper was able to benefit.

DK were then able to work themselves back into the game and on the half hour constructed a good attack that built into numerous phases,

Rugby

giving full back Nic Adams on his return the opportunity to step his marker and cross for a good try, with the conversion added by Connah Jones.

Heading towards half time the seasoned DK watcher was starting to grow in confidence, then it all went wrong. The DK defence had been solid, but a half break by the Wanderers right wing saw a good inside ball to their full back Paul Burton in support, and he was able to make the line, with the conversion making it 14-7 to the Wanderers.

In the opening minutes of the second half, DK

were awarded a penalty, kicked into the corner. The following line out was straight out of the repertoire of DK line out moves with Luke Greenwood given a clear run to the line.

Then perhaps the turning point of the game, DK mounted an attack deep in the Wanderers half and maintained possession for multiple phase and were looking likely to score, when an accidental offside was conceded and Worcester were able to weather the storm.

A penalty stretched the Wanderers lead to 17-12. DK were still in the game, but in the final minutes the losing bonus point was lost to another Wanderers penalty.

SAM THE MAN CLAIMS BOUT

SAM Eggington claimed the bragging rights over Frankie Gavin – but the giant-killing came from Craig Cunningham over Anthony Ogogo.

In the big grudge match over 12 rounds at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena, only Stourbridge's Eggington, 23, could win the WBC International welterweight title, regardless of the result.

Come the eighth, Eggington managed to get a big uppercut through the guard, with Gavin slumping to the mat. Loughlin began his count and, seeing the fallen fighter too hurt to continue, waved him off.

Medical attention was called for and, after a brief period of treatment, Gavin regained his senses and congratulated his nemesis. There was just 18 seconds of the round left.

Meanwhile, Cunningham claimed a stunning upset for the WBC International crown at middleweight with the scalp of Ogogo, Olympic bronze medalist and undefeated professional.

Behind

Again, it came in the eighth, where Ogogo was retired by his corner complaining of blurred vision. He was also behind on the cards, though.

Halesowen's Lennox Clarke followed the top of the bill in the Saturday night show staged by Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Boxing. His six-rounder with Adam Jones was dropped to four, with Clarke taking the bout on points.

Don Broadhurst claim the English super flyweight crown in an entertaining tussle with Louis Norman, while Sean Davis claimed the WBC International belt at super bantam, outpointing late call-up Paul Economides.

British super flyweight champion Kal Yafai featured in an eight-rounder, seeing off Tellez Johnson with 12 seconds of round three left.

Andy Keates successfully defended the Midlands light welterweight title on points against Jordan Cooke. Robbie Barrett claimed the English lightweight strap, going the distance with Marcus French. Brian Rose shut out Stiliyan Kostov, Cori Gibbs whitewashed Michael Mooney and Joe Sherriff used four rounds to remove Tzvetozar Iliev. Ryan Kelly defeated Tommy Cart-erand Sam Bowen removed Reynaldo Mora.



Sam Eggington, left, on his way to knocking out Frankie Gavin in Birmingham

Snooker scene hit by death of veteran

THE local snooker scene is in mourning following the sudden death of Ken Garlick, aged 78.

He died on October 11 and the funeral service was taking place yesterday (Wednesday) at Gornal Crematorium.

Mr Garlick played for a number of teams including King-swinford Conservative Club,

Kingswinford Snooker Centre and Stourbridge Institute.

He was still a very active member at the Institute, and will be sadly missed – but much remembered with great fondness.

Although a very useful player, Mr Garlick will also be remembered for his considerable coach-

ing skills which were of benefit to many local players, particularly at Dudley Snooker Club over 30 years ago, and for his help and guidance to other aspiring and established coaches.

He worked for many years in the Midlands steel industry after moving to the area from his native Yorkshire.

Blizzard is blazing trail by the coast

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club had their first opportunity to run around a muddy field at the weekend with the first fixture of the cross country season, the Midlands Cross Country Relays at Wolverhampton.

With clubs travelling from all over the Midlands area to compete, the blue hoops were rubbing shoulders with the local heavyweights of Coventry Godiva, Tipton Harriers, Notts AC, Rugby & Northants and the hosts, Wolverhampton & Bilston.

With each club fielding teams of four runners with each runner completing a 6k leg of 2 x 3k laps around fields there were plenty of ups and downs and twists. But those looking for mud were disappointed as the course was bone dry. Stuart Perkins got the event under way on the first leg running 24.03 to place the hoops in 24th of the 69 clubs competing in the Senior Men's race. Simon Hughes ran the second leg in 25.50 with the club dropping to 27th at the changeover, Rob Sannwald was off third and clocked 25.32 with the club losing a place in 28th and Dave Norman, fresh from a marathon six days earlier, moved the club up to a finishing position of 26th in 25.55.

Darran Bishop got the Masters team on the board with a 25.32 first leg in 11th out of 24 over 40s teams, Andy Morrison ran 31.33 to place the club 17th, Richard Jones dropped a place to 18th with a 29.27 third leg and John Andrews moved the club up to a final finishing position of 15th with a 31.00 last leg.

Simon Blizzard decided to avoid the mud with a trip to the seaside taking part in the Great South Run, a 10 miles race from Portsmouth, along the coast and back to a sea front finish. He clocked a time of 1.05.52 to place a very respectable 306th position.

Anderson's magic moment seals win

Halesowen Town 1 Warrington Town 0
YELTZ bounced back to winning ways with a moment of magic from leading striker Kaiman Anderson in a hard-fought victory.

The kick-off was delayed due to M6 traffic troubles and when play finally began Warrington's Anderson grabbed the solitary winning goal for the Yeltz in the 34th minute with a spectacular overhead kick into the top corner after Kennedy Digie headed the ball back across goal.

Halesowen's defence held firm as Warrington upped the pressure in the final stages.

★ ★ ★

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CLEARANCE EVENT

Exciting new developments, plus significant investment and restructuring mean that Cousins Furniture need to clear millions of pounds worth of stock from their warehouses and showrooms with immediate effect.

For 3 Days, this Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Cousins have been closed all week, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast quantities of incoming stock from their suppliers & warehouses, including the leading brands. Consignments will continue to arrive daily and all the price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this Massive Clearance Event.

POSITIVE TRENDS MIXED WITH UNCERTAINTY.

A combination of the continuing increase in big ticket furniture sales, together with the drop in sterling's currency valuation plus some unprecedented business opportunities have all led to the need for this dramatic clear out of stock.

It's been well documented that High street sales have experienced a definite upturn. Cousins are no exception, with furniture sales flourishing as the economy comes out of recession. Increased buoyancy in the housing market, property refurbishments and extensions have all contributed, along with a general feel good factor. Consumers are definitely returning to household projects and plans that may have been put on hold during years of uncertainty.

"Our customers are investing in both quality and brand assurance. People are becoming more adventurous in the styles that they're purchasing" said John Shotton, Managing Director.

However, this is now mixed with uncertainty, as the UK's June Brexit Referendum has led to a dramatic devaluing of the pound against foreign currencies, which will potentially result in significant price increases on the High Street, with furniture being no exception.

MASSIVE OPPORTUNITIES.

With this in mind and in an attempt to beat this inevitable price rise, Cousins have bulk purchased enormous volumes of stock and negotiated fantastic short term discounts from many of their brand leading suppliers to offer the buying public a phenomenal opportunity to purchase quality furniture at unbelievable discounted prices and beat any potential price increase. This applies to both stock and special orders.

FANTASTIC STOCK DEALS.

Furthermore as a member of the prestigious "Associated Independent Stores" Buying Group, Cousins have used their combined purchasing power to obtain some fantastic stock deals on accessories, homewares and carpets. In-store concession Hammonds will also be joining in the Extravaganza.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY.

In September, Cousins proudly introduced new flagship "Lounge Company" galleries into their Manchester and Birmingham stores, part of an exciting and exclusive partnership with market leading brand Parker Knoll. This exciting new venture showcases the very

best in contemporary sofa styles and enables a customer to experience and configure their preferences, either instore or online, utilising the most up to date fabrics and leathers.

CONTINUED SUCCESS AND EXPANSION.

Cousins have also further expanded their unique "Bespoke Upholstery" departments, which enable consumers to solve any seating dilemma they may have. Whether its design, dimensions, comfort levels or fabric covering a customer can design a sofa, chair or corner group to exactly match their needs. This is a service that isn't generally available on the High Street and certainly meets a significant demand.

WAREHOUSE RESTRUCTURING.

Both online and offline, Cousins' will be enhancing the shopping experience. The recent completion of an in-house photography studio will vastly improve the quality and variety of their website imagery. It also necessitates the need to clear part of the main warehouse along with the associated stock, to accommodate the facility, putting even greater urgency on the success of the Clearance Event.

STOCK ARRIVING DAILY - EVERYTHING MUST GO.

This tremendous need to clear stock from suppliers, their warehouses plus in-store mean that consignments will continue to arrive daily, and be marked down to prices for immediate Clearance and delivery due to the

enormous pressure for space. "We need to clear this stock as soon as possible with everything available for immediate delivery. It really is a case of everything must go" said John Shotton. "We are delighted to offer our customers more choice than ever before. These are some of the biggest savings we have ever offered and expect people to take full advantage"

MADE TO ORDER.

Cousins have even dramatically reduced all made to order items, so you can choose exactly what size or colours suits your home. Their expert team of sales people will be on hand to ensure you make the right decision at the best price. "We are expecting this to be our busiest event of the year from the minute the doors open. With many one-off bargains and unrepeatable deals it really will be a case of first come first served" said John Shotton, Managing Director.

Their Biggest Ever CLEARANCE EVENT

starts on Friday at 10am - offering the General Public a fantastic opportunity to save up to 70% on a massive range of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.



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WADE Asquith 2.5 seater pillow back sofa with nickel castors	£1699 £687
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